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Photograph by Darren McDonald (Lisa).

COOL RETREATS

Sydney is sweltering as I write. It's 43°C in the shade and a cool retreat is on everyone's mind. Even in the airconditioned comfort of the *H&G* office we've had an eye on the temperature, knowing we'll have to make a dash (or more likely, dawdle) home at some point.

With its shady lawn and pool, the home on our cover has drawn much comment today: the concrete floored rear extension looks like a pretty cool place to retreat to.

There are other clever design solutions to temper hot summer days in this issue: the self-built home of architect Anthony Knobel on the NSW South Coast with its floating pavilions, shaded courtyards and breezeways; and the impressive ode to Japanese design in WA, where retirees Terry and Tena benefit from deep eaves, stone floors and walls, and the air-cooling benefits of ponds adjacent to living spaces. Claudia Neville's shady rainforest garden in northern NSW is a heat-beater too.

The New York loft and life of creative expats Vanessa Holden and Simon Andrews is cool in a different way. Their Tribeca home, set with meaningful pieces collected over a lifetime, has a supremely relaxed air, and blue notes galore – Vanessa's attempt to bring in ocean and sky to balance the pace of Manhattan. You can see the results on page 16. The couple's relaxed approach to a New Year's Eve celebration – fab cocktails and Simon's delicious recipes, appear on page 135, all delightfully captured by their friend and fellow Aussie, photographer Con Poulos.

Closer to home, a fun bunch of style influencers have shared some great tips for the summer hols (page 69) and we present our annual round-up of locally designed homewares (page 45)… Just the ticket if you're yet to complete your Christmas shopping. Topping it off, and rounding out an issue bathed in cooling blues, is a fresh, coastal decorating story from interiors editor Kate Nixon, full of wicker and wonderfulness, page 27. Phew!

Happy holidays everyone,

Lisa

CONTRIBUTORS



FAVEL PARRETT
Writer
Her work is strongly inspired by a love of landscape and award-winning author Favel was enchanted by the transportive calm of Tasmania's Wineglass Bay, which she writes about on page 146. "There were times when we had a whole island, or a white sandy beach, all to ourselves," she says. "The rest of the world kind of disappeared."



CON POULOS
Photographer
Based in New York, Con finds his work often takes him inside the homes of the city's top creatives, as it did for our story on the effortlessly stylish apartment of creative and editorial director Vanessa Holden (page 16). His favourite part of the job? "It's a privilege to have the opportunity to be exposed to people's private space and capture their emotions in their own homes," says Con.

YOUR *H&G*

I'm excited to say that my husband, three children and myself are about to move into our 'shouse'. Although a modest shed, it will be our family home and I want to make it a beautiful place to live. I recently subscribed to H&G *for inspiration and after two issues, I've planned nearly everything. In the October issue I fell for a brick-effect wallpaper in Top 50 Rooms, and in November I discovered* my *paint colour, a timeless grey, in Dave Hughes' home. Next, I'll track down your best storage buys. Thanks for catering to all types of projects and budgets, big and small.*
Taylen Curtis, Crescent Head, NSW

Berlin ball

Opening my November issue, I was drawn to the travel story on Berlin as my daughters are currently holidaying there. Not being the most tech-savvy person, I simply photographed the article on my smartphone and sent it to the girls. Both were so excited by your suggestions, they immediately checked out the street art in Kreuzberg, and ate and drank at The Monkey Bar that night. They loved your recommendations and confirmed that yes, Berlin is über cool. Thank you, *H&G*, for making me look like a hip and on-trend mum!
Caron Salib, Lugarno, NSW

In a different light

We recently relocated to Queensland from Tasmania and I was a bit sad to leave our old home behind just when we'd finally got the interior colours right. Here on the Fraser Coast, I've discovered how much the subtropical light influences the choice of colours. The paint palette from the renovated Queenslander (Open Minded, November) was a perfect combination and will be a big help to us. Now we can cross that job off the list, embrace our renovation and enjoy the sea change. I'll be looking forward to your next issue for more time-saving ideas.
Karin Clem, Hervey Bay, Queensland

A power of good

As a devotee of Elk, I was already aware of how its wonderful goods are made. In this fast-fashion era it's nice to hear that an Australian brand is concerned with the welfare of the workers who make their products, and that of their

WRITE IN TO WIN

The author of every letter published receives $50. Our favourite also wins a great prize. This month, Taylen Curtis wins a tableware gift set in the Lotus pattern from Urbaani Homewares, valued at $400; www.urbaani.com.au. Email your letter to h&g@bauer-media.com.au with your full name and address or post to Your *H&G*, PO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028.





FLOWER OF THE MONTH

CHOCOLATE COSMOS

This chocolate-scented flower, a native of Mexico, blooms from early summer to autumn.

Colour Rich, deep burgundy.
Shape A delicate flower similar to a daisy or single dahlia, on a fine, elegant stem.
Look for Flowers that are open, with velvety petals.
Best displayed "They are gorgeous en masse but they also look beautiful mixed with roses, peonies and hydrangeas," says Sydney florist Jardine Hansen. "They are a perfect foil for blush and nude tones."
Jardine Botanic; 0412 890 841 or www.jardinebotanic.com.au.

To see Jardine's beautiful floral display using chocolate cosmos, check out our Pinterest page in January.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Illustration by Allison Langton. Photograph by James Grose (room).

children. Whenever I've made an online purchase from Elk, I've opted to give a small donation to its cause, not realising that the company matches the amount. Knowing this, I'll endeavour to make more purchases in future. Well done to Elk's Marnie and Adam.
Shelley Bognar, Clarkson, WA

You've got mail

My husband and I both love *H&G*. After borrowing friends' copies and sneaking peeks at the supermarket, we received our first subscription copy a week ago. Because the Australian lifestyle is so diverse and unique, it's great to have a magazine devoted to it, featuring homes from all over the country. After a week, we're still poring over the issue.
Irene Head, Bundaberg, Queensland

Star quality

I recently bought a box of Christmas stars but had no clear idea of how to use them. Thanks to Ashley Pratt's decorating tip in December *H&G*, I can now add that extra something to my gift wrapping.
Maria Zazulak, Lindfield, NSW

Branching out

I'm new to gardening but after studying the beautiful layouts featured in *H&G*, I am proud to say I've created a lovely garden of my own that I appreciate every day. It makes me so happy to look at the beautiful flowers and colours. Thanks for making my life a lot nicer!
Penny Sangster, Daisy Hill, Queensland

IF YOU'RE IN THE MARKET FOR A NEW ROOF OR FENCE, THERE'S A COMPETITION YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT. SEE PAGE 76 FOR DETAILS...

TOP 50 ROOMS

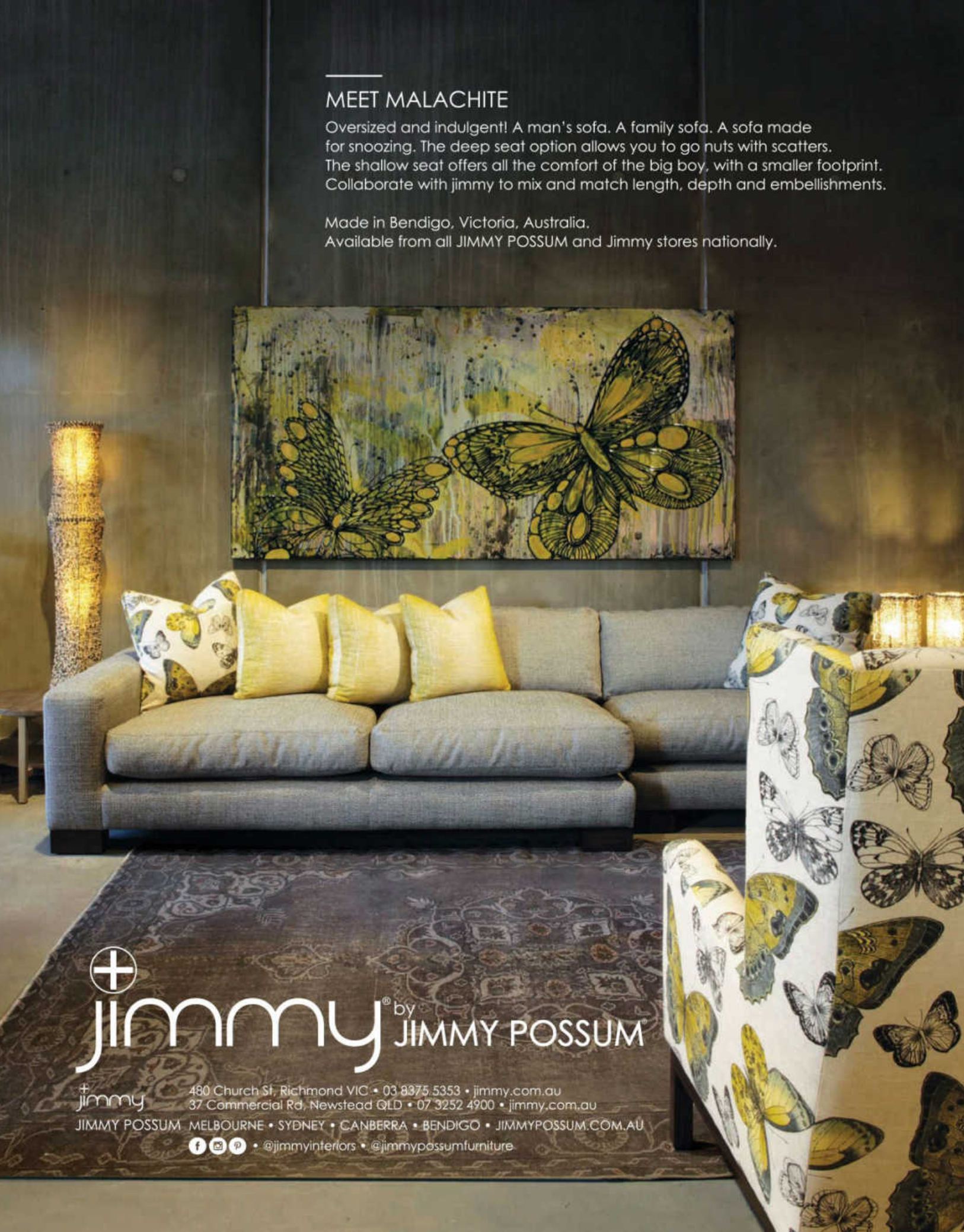


Readers' choice

This lovely mezzanine library by Sofiaa Interior Design, Adelaide, has struck a chord, taking out the 2015 Top 50 Rooms Readers' Choice award. The library's thoughtful connection to the home, treetop views and the material palette of stained timber, glass balustrading and eye-catching steel-framed windows all drew your praise.

Congratulations to NSW reader Simon Cormack, whose entry has won him a $5165 sofa package courtesy of our Top 50 partner, Warwick Fabrics.

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the palette

Who better to kickstart our summer palette than Australian artist Joshua Yeldham, whose unique approach to landscape draws you in with every dot, speckle and fleck. This evocative work, in indigo shellac and cane on carved board, taps a rich decorative vein, from chinoiserie to batik.









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COLOUR CODE

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Taubmans Teal Flash

Bristol Baltic Blue

INSPIRED BUYS

Little Lion – Smith's Creek **artwork** (76x76cm) by Joshua Yeldham; joshuayeldham.com.au. Bell Basket jute and wood **pendant light,** $149, Freedom; www.freedom.com.au. Rock stoneware **planter** (10cm high), from $55, Tara Shackell; www.tarashackell.com. Odin Grid queen-size linen **quilt cover,** $379, Country Road; www.countryroad.com.au. Sika Design Affiaire Sofie rattan and synthetic wicker **chair,** $395, Domo: domo.com.au.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



New York STATE OF MIND

Australian creative force Vanessa Holden has made her mark on the Big Apple while infusing her family's loft apartment with an eclectic and expressive spirit.

STORY **ALAANA COBON** / STYLING **VANESSA HOLDEN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **CON POULOS**



Collected over the years from Habitat stores in the UK and US, glass candleholders of varying heights create a charming tablescape in the dining area. Vintage Eames chairs. The wire horse sculpture at right was found in Johannesburg.
OPPOSITE / Vanessa and her husband Simon Andrews, with daughter Yasmin and son Harper, enjoy the constantly morphing canvas of Manhattan from the rooftop of their apartment building, a converted butter warehouse. " I love how Tribeca is so family-centric," says Vanessa. "To really enjoy New York, you have to match the pace of your life to the pulse of your neighbourhood." FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.





Climbing five floors is well worth the effort when you're rewarded with a first-class view of the Manhattan skyline. This is the payoff that saw creative director Vanessa Holden, her husband, food stylist Simon Andrews, and their children Yasmin, 15, and Harper, 13, take up residence in their three-bedroom loft apartment in New York's Tribeca district.

Originally from Sydney, the family appreciates that each of them has everything they want on their doorstep. Tribeca's lively culture is very community-minded. "It's a magnet for people with a creative bent," says Vanessa, who certainly qualifies, having worked for the likes of homewares retailer West Elm and *Martha Stewart Living* magazine. "And there's great coffee."

'I've always preferred white as the canvas for our home, because so much of what we own is patterned, coloured or wildly expressive.' ***Vanessa Holden***

But the family also enjoys time at home. Step through the front door and it becomes clear that Vanessa's sense of style comes from deep within. Her home is an extension of her being, featuring collections, curios and objects with a lifetime of stories attached. High-end Eames and Moroso furniture intermingles with found pieces and high-street gems. Ephemera from Vanessa's travels pulls it all together, and ranges from ceramics sourced in Portugal, Italy and Peru to cushions and side tables from Marrakesh.

"I fall in love with beautiful things all the time," says Vanessa, "but the things that speak to me personally, that I choose to bring home, invariably have a backstory that resonates with me. It's important to me to know where the things that I live with came from, who designed them, where and how they were made." Her passion for provenance reverberates through the space, as does her love of deep-blue hues. ▶

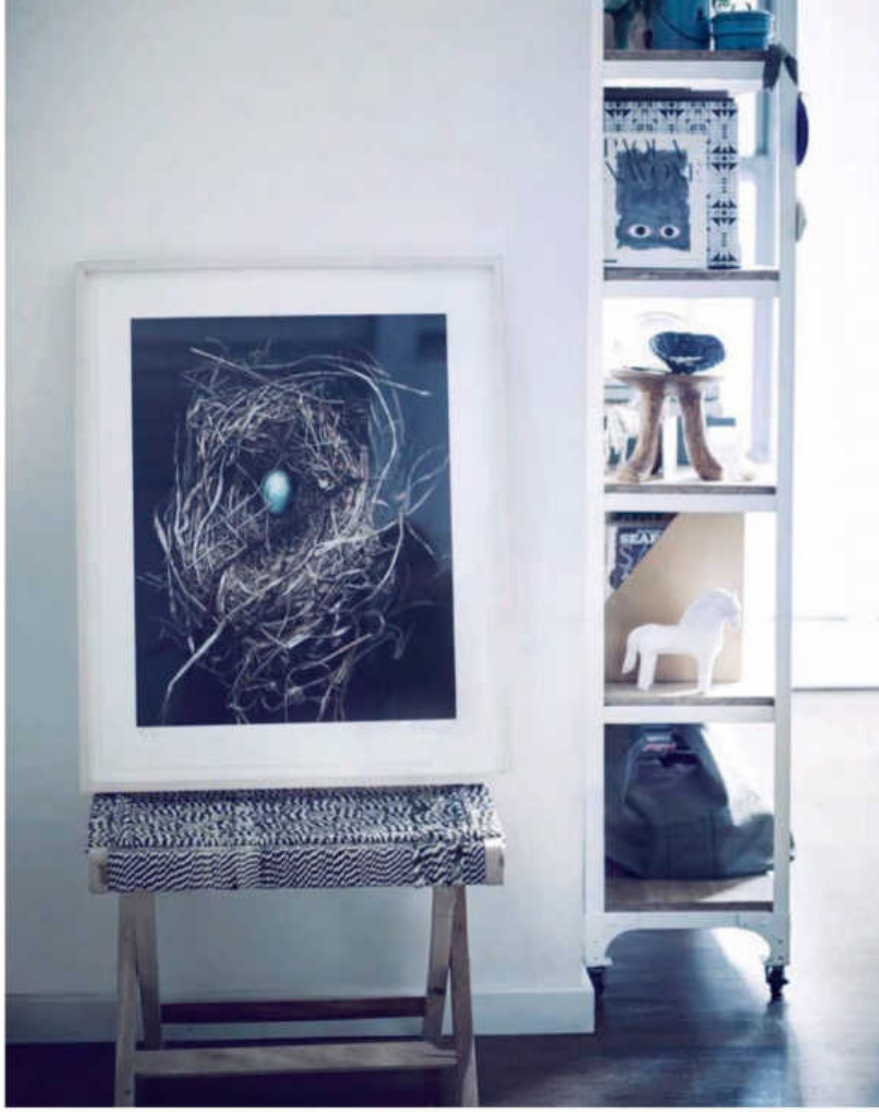
Shades of blue bring "ocean and sky" to the white-walled apartment. The sofa, covered in navy Belgian linen, is where the family congregates to watch movies projected onto the wall. Another focal point is the Japanese vintage hanging textile, juxtaposed with a contemporary Moroso coffee table and a credenza from Room & Board. Orbit chandelier, Townsend Design. Woven artwork (on credenza, top right) by Hannah Tribe. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



A BITE OF THE BIG APPLE

Vanessa and Simon entertain stylishly and frequently. As well as being a successful food stylist, with a client list that includes *Food & Wine* magazine and Williams-Sonoma, Simon is a "fantastically talented home cook", his wife attests. Check out his delectable recipes on page 136.







'Day to day, the setup changes as new finds arrive. I'm always creating new arrangements on the coffee table, the credenza or bookshelf.' ***Vanessa***

ABOVE / The cast-beeswax heart from Greece and Indian brass bell are artfully arranged with a vintage French book of maps and a hamsa hand – a traditional Indian symbol of protection – made by ceramic artist Ivy Weinglass.
ABOVE RIGHT / An Indian black and white stool, bought at Steven Alan Home, is paired with a photograph from family friend Susie Cushner. Bookshelf from West Elm.
RIGHT / "The cactus is our Christmas tree this year, because we're going to be away," says Vanessa. "Each year we do a different tree idea." For last year's festivities, she made one out of Tibetan prayer flags.
OPPOSITE / Simon and Yasmin catch up on the day's events in their kitchen. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.





◀ "Blue is, and always has been, my favourite colour, but it's become more prominent since we moved to New York in 2004. I think it's a not-so-subtle attempt to suggest the ocean and the sky in the canyons of NYC," she says. Blues are both immediately relaxing and transportive. They have a tidal quality that I find both energising and calming. Blue is the best kind of neutral."

Rich azure, indigo and navy also serve to ground the frivolous and whimsical things Vanessa likes to bring home. This year, a shiny gold and pink piñata, a present from friends at Confetti Systems, is paired with a light-strung cactus that is acting as the family's Christmas tree. An oversized chandelier with colourful globes makes a style statement, yet the whole living area, with comfy sofas and plenty of places to perch, seems to welcome visitors in and invite them to linger longer.

"Decorating is less about a look than about creating a feeling," says Vanessa. "I love that people 'get' the feel of our place the moment they step in. There's nothing better than when someone walks in and says 'Wow, this is so you!', then slips off their shoes and makes themselves at home." A fitting sentiment from someone who says that her career is about "inspiring people to make their everyday more beautiful, meaningful and delicious by tapping into their creativity to express their personal style at home". ▶

'Choosing handmade items infuses your home with a soulful feeling. Things that are made by hand look and feel different.' ***Vanessa***

ABOVE LEFT / A witty juxtaposition of a Turkish evil-eye talisman and, beneath it, a stylised eye by New York ceramic artist Michelle Quan. Bookshelf, West Elm. Photograph (middle shelf) by Johnny Miller.
ABOVE RIGHT / Made by Simon, the whimsical sign recreates vintage signage on a block of flats near a favourite swimming spot in Sydney. "That's how our loft earned the name Tribeca Beach," says Vanessa. "It's a reminder that it's possible to hold on to that relaxed beach feel even in New York."
OPPOSITE / The framed piece on the wall of the main bedroom is a note Yasmin wrote as a child, which reads, "It's nice loving somebody". On the bed are beautifully crafted examples of gift wrap, a passion of Vanessa's. "The paper should be as lovely as the gift is meaningful," she says. Belgian bedlinen from West Elm. Shibori-dyed linen pillowcases made by Vanessa and Harper. Wardrobe from Room & Board.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



look we love

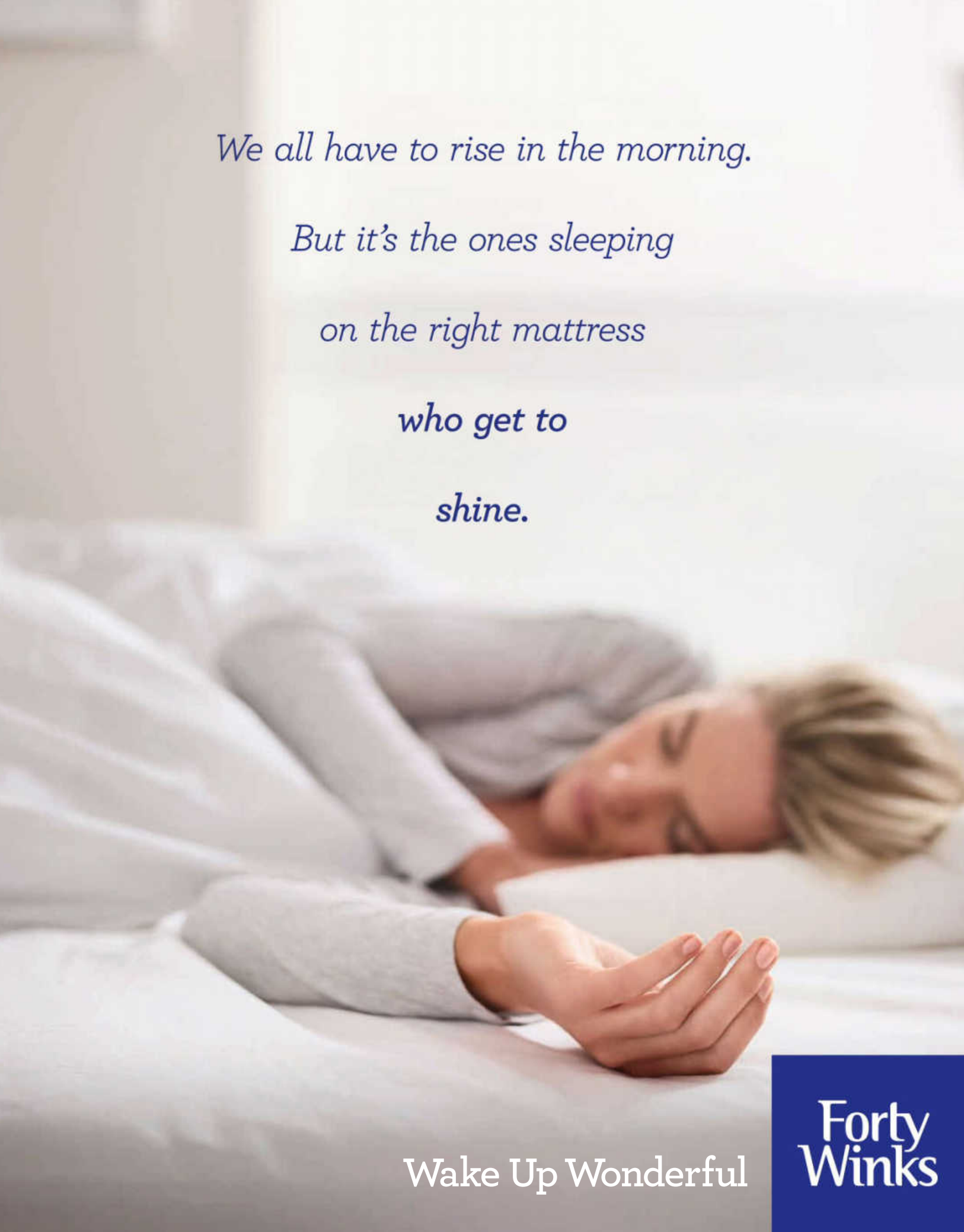
Vanessa's take on downtown style is playfully curated, a mix of designer artefacts, souvenirs and street finds. With a white canvas as the starting point, the character-filled loft reflects her deep affection for shades of blue and passion for pattern and curiosities.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Louise Roe Christmas Diamond brass **ornament,** $15, Norsu Interiors; www.norsu.com.au. Brass **bell,** $15, Oxfam; www.oxfamshop.org.au. Art Deco Lace wool-viscose **rug,** from $1450, Xavier & Me; www.xavierandme.com. Bali rattan **chair**, $700, Satara; www.satara.com.au. River glass **bottle,** $40, Emporium; www.emporiumhome.com.au. Denim Blue velvet **throw,** $399, Vavoom Emporium; www.vavoom.com.au. Saturn wire **side table,** $229, Zanui; www.zanui.com.au. Amigos De Hoy Flip cotton-lurex **cushion** in Blue/Silver, $110, Art Hide; www.arthide.com.au. **H&G**

Produced by Ashley Pratt.


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Catch the summer decorating wave!

For product details, turn to page 32.

Styling by Kate Nixon. Photograph by Chris Warnes.

DECORATING

INSPIRATION / TRENDS / STYLE AWARDS / MASTERCLASS



SEASIDE STORY

Devise a lighthearted setting for a long, lovely summer with a cool mix of wicker, wood, pattern and print.

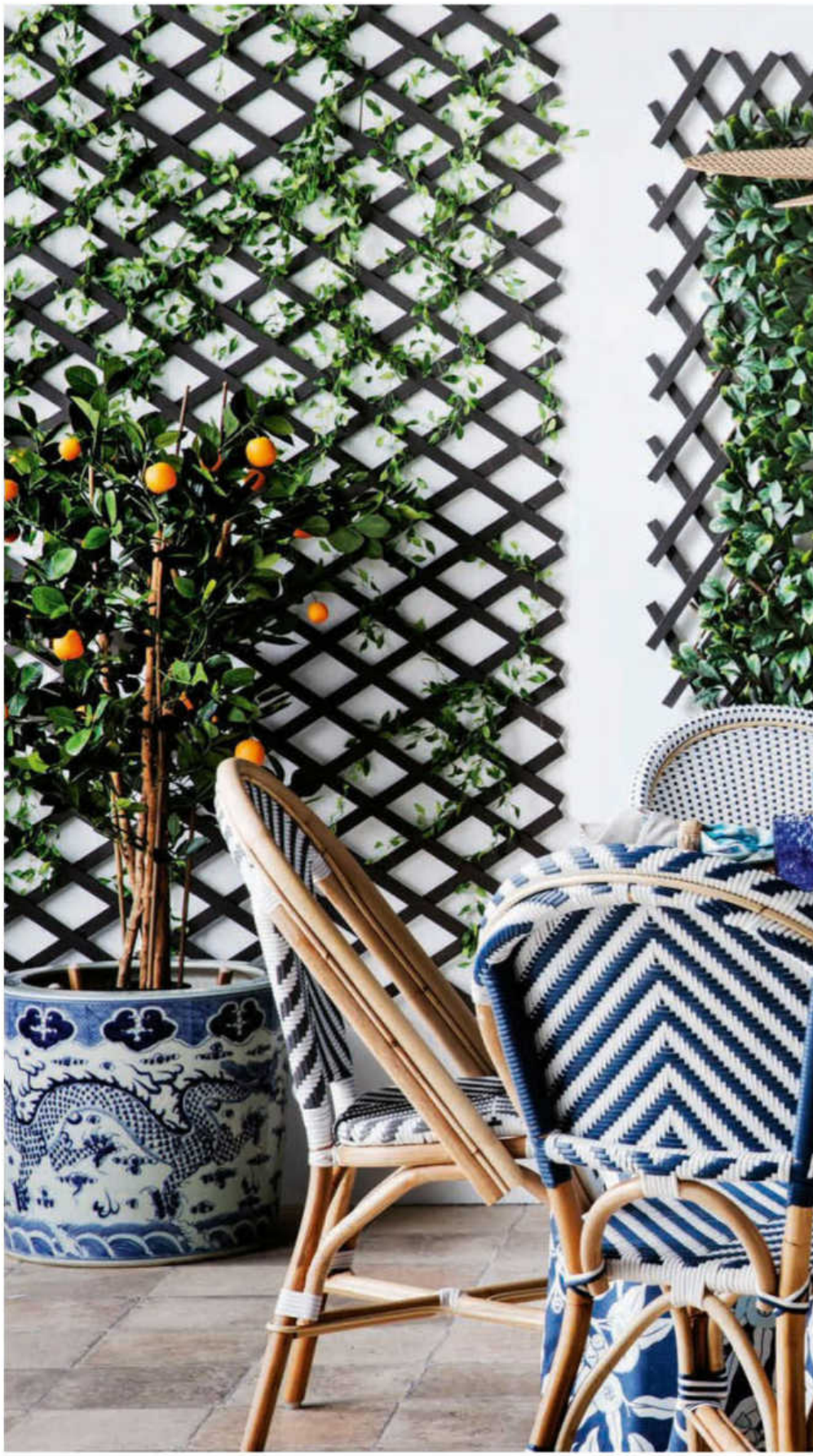
STYLING **KATE NIXON** / PHOTOGRAPHY **CHRIS WARNES**



ON WALL Anna Spiro Round & Round the Garden **wallpaper** in Twine, $220/10.5m roll, Porter's Paints. **Wall hanging** by Angela McNay, $590, East Coast Lounge. *Salt and Light in the City* by Annette Kelsey **print,** $700 (framed), Mr & Mrs White. **FOREGROUND clockwise from bottom left** Fabienne Jouvin Iznik ceramic **drum stool,** $725, Laura Kincade. Diane Bergeron Bridget **swivel chair** with linen-cotton upholstery, $3510, Arthur G. C14217 elm **coffee table,** $1750, Orient House. **ON COFFEE TABLE from left** Bamboo **tray,** $119, Citta Design (discontinued). **Potted succulents,** Mandalay Flowers. Shell **necklace,** $120, Manyara Home. Palecek Havana hardwood and rattan **three-seater sofa** with hemp-cotton cushions, $9360, Laura Kincade. **ON SOFA** Marimekko Kaino linen **cushion,** $210, Jardan (left). Flowers on Water cotton **cushion cover,** $140, No Chintz. IVV Optic glass **decanter,** $105, and IVV Obelix glass **whisky tumblers,** $58/six, Noritake. **Drum stool,** as before. Chinoise lacquered-wood **cabinet,** $1500, My Island Home. **ON CABINET** Naples bamboo **table lamps,** $80/each, Freedom. Grace Garrett linen **lampshades** in Sea Grass (left) and Cuttlefish, $94/each, Steal the Limelight. Hermes Moroccan ceramic **squat ginger jar,** $55, and **faux cymbidium orchids,** $31/spray, all Florabelle. Fresh flowers from Mandalay Flowers. Cowrie-shell **leis,** $45/each, and cotton **tie-backs** with cane details, $55/each, all My Island Home. **Faux olive tree** (1.5m), $415, Florabelle. Ceramic **pot,** $750, MCM House. Antique Moroccan-style timber **table,** $450, Rustic Coast. **ON SIDE TABLE** Pandanus **notebooks,** $30 (small), $40 (large), My Island Home. Hermes Moroccan ceramic **ginger jar,** $22, Florabelle. Singita coral **table lamp,** $1310, Busatti. Mokum Rubik Indigo cotton **lampshade,** $200, Steal the Limelight. Green porcelain **parrot,** $110, Contents International Design. Sika Charlottenborg rattan **chair,** $1395, Domo. Designers Guild Malvone Celadon linen **cushion cover,** $240, No Chintz. Sika Franco Albini rattan **ottoman,** $595, Domo. Mineral White polyester **sheer curtain** (1.8x2.5m), $40, Freedom. Rugby Stripe polypropylene **indoor/outdoor rug** in Denim (2.6x3.4m), $1395, Dash & Albert Rug Company. Texline Comfort **vinyl flooring** in Keywest Gris, $60/m² (installed), Gerflor (throughout). FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

CHART YOUR COURSE

Move beyond a traditional nautical look with dynamic florals, oriental ceramics and chairs that hold their own. The palette keeps it all in line.



Santa Barbara (stripe) rattan **side chair** with synthetic-wicker seat, $269, and Miami (spot) rattan **side chair** with synthetic-wicker seat, $299, Naturally Cane. **ON TABLE from left** Kaos glass **tumblers** in Cobalt, $8/each, Freedom. Aqua **wineglasses,** $89/six, Me & Mo Homewares. Lotus linen **napkins,** $125/six, Bonnie and Neil. Woven cane **napkin rings,** $9/each, My Island Home. Batik Garden porcelain **side plates,** $245/12-piece dinner set, Noritake. Bamboo-handled **cutlery,** $265/five-piece place setting, My Island Home. Rope melamine **dinner plates,** $14/each, Pottery Barn. Waveney wicker **placemats,** $48/each, Juliska. Lagos blown-glass **vase** in Paprika, $415, and Lagos blown-glass **votive** in Paprika, $165/two, Boyd Blue. Fish aluminium **salt and pepper shakers,** $44/pair, Pottery Barn. Indigo Mallee linen-cotton **tablecloth,** $149, Utopia Goods. Fijian II **fan** with rattan blades, $349, Beacon Lighting. **Faux Golden Orange trees,** $300/each, Florabelle. Ceramic **pots,** $950 (50cm), $750 (44cm), MCM House. Premier hardwood **expanding trellis,** $46/each (240x90cm), and $61/each (240x120cm), Bunnings. **ON TRELLISES Faux laurel** (1x2m), $143, and Z Leaf **garland** (1m), $20/each, Florabelle. **Trellis** painted Wash & Wear 101 in Namadji, $45/L, Dulux. **Wall** painted Low Sheen Acrylic in K2, $101/4L, Porter's Paints. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.





'Textural tableware and tonal colours add excitement to the table. Select a bold fabric and explore that palette.' ***Kate Nixon, interiors editor***

Lotus linen **napkin,** $125/six, Bonnie and Neil. Woven cane **napkin ring,** $9, My Island Home. Batik Garden porcelain **side plate,** $245/12-piece dinner set, Noritake. Bamboo-handled **cutlery,** $265/five-piece place setting, My Island Home. Rope melamine **dinner plate,** $14, Pottery Barn. Waveney wicker **placemat,** $48, Juliska. Fish aluminium **salt and pepper shakers,** $44/pair, Pottery Barn. Kaos glass **tumbler** in Cobalt, $8, Freedom.

OPPOSITE clockwise from top left Luxury Spanish Tiles vinyl **wallpaper** in Blue, $115/10m roll, Annandale Wallpapers. Blacklip Pearl **shell,** $25, My Island Home. **Conch shell,** $55, Sentosa Designs. Scion Wallpaper Wabi Sabi Samaki **wallpaper** in Blue, $129/10m roll, The Ivory Tower Fabric & Wallpaper, in Nyttja fibreboard **frame** in Navy (34x25cm), $3, Ikea. Occipinti Herringbone **wallpaper** in Cobalt, $280/10m roll, Wallpaper Antics. **Potted succulents** from Mandalay Flowers. Osborne & Little Pasha Melo **wallpaper,** $309/10m roll, The Ivory Tower Fabric & Wallpaper, in Ribba fibreboard **frame** in White (25x25cm), $10, Ikea. Shibori Diamonds **wallpaper** in Blue, $195/10m roll, Annandale Wallpapers, in Madison American oak **frame** (13x18cm), $35, Freedom.

FROM PAGE 27 ON WALL from left *Alphabetic Sydney 'H for Harbour Bridge'* **print,** $120, Koskela. *Coogee Mothers* by Alex Snellgrove **artwork,** $1800, Art2Muse Gallery. Visual Comfort & Co Vendome bronze **double sconce,** $720, Laura Kincade. TCT Contemporary Collection Dark Blue linen **lampshades,** $60/each, The Country Trader. *Whale* by Rosie Stenta **artwork,** $250 (framed), 414 Interiors. Under The Sea metal **wall hook,** $72/set of three, West Elm. Pineapple brass **hooks,** $65/each, Sentosa Designs. Fouta linen-cotton **towel,** $150, Busatti. Moroccan open-weave **shopper** with leather handle, $40, Citta Design. Castaway straw **hat,** $225, My Island Home. Oslo oak **bench,** $999, Provincial Home Living.

ON BENCH from left Cushion in Indigo Firewheel linen-cotton, $129/m, Utopia Goods. Pacific Poisson embroidered-cotton **cushion cover,** $93, No Chintz. Falconwright leather **wallet,** $54, Hello Polly. Ullu wooden **stool** with jute cushion, $935, Boyd Blue. Mixte **three-speed bicycle,** from $599, with Honeywood Peterboro **bicycle basket,** $74, Papillionaire Bicycles. Twine Weave wool **floor runner,** from $308/m², Armadillo&Co. Flowers from Mandalay Flowers. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Stylist's assistants Kayla Gex, Sarah Maloney, Ben Woodbury, Emily Phillips, Harriet Webb, Mia Lazareff.



WONDER WALLS

Beautiful wallpapers are a decorator's delight. Frame an offcut or plan a feature wall – or ceiling!



HAVE IT ALL

A panel of wallpaper behind the bed creates depth and height in a room. Mix geometrics, florals and stripes in cotton and linen for rich yet carefree results.

Feature wall painted Low Sheen Acrylic in Starflower, $101/4L, Porter's Paints. Jonathan Adler Radcliff lacquered-wood **étagère,** $3995, Coco Republic. **TOP SHELF from left** Hermes Moroccan ceramic **ginger jar,** $22, Florabelle. Blue **coral,** $500, My Island Home. Hermes Moroccan ceramic **squat ginger jar,** $55, Florabelle. **SECOND SHELF from left** Oly San Francisco Tortuga resin **sculpture** on metal and timber stand, $595/set of three, Coco Republic. Soapstone **whale,** $179, West Elm. **THIRD SHELF from left** Palm Springs ceramic **vessel,** $42, Hello Polly. Shell **box,** $65, Sentosa Designs. Metric ceramic **vessel,** $34, Hello Polly. Addison rattan **side chair,** $599, Naturally Cane. Lattice cotton **cushion cover,** $115, No Chintz. Worlds Away William Navy iron **desk** with MDF top, $1600, James Said. **ON DESK from left** Fan Shell ceramic **vase,** $52, Me & Mo Homewares. Bronzed **crab,** $80, Contents International Design. Motif ceramic **lamp,** $250, Sasson Home. Grevillea cotton **drum shade,** $310, No Chintz. **Curtain** in Kravet Upstream linen in River, POA, Elliott Clarke. Cadrys Geometric wool **rug** (2.4x3m), $3350, Arthur G. **OPPOSITE, ARTWORKS from top** *Watercolour Mountains* **print,** $60, Feliz Home, in Madison American oak **frame,** $45, Freedom. ***Courtyard Lemons*** by Alex Snellgrove, $950 (framed), Art2Muse Gallery. *Tea and Reading in the Sunroom* by Elizabeth Barnett **limited-edition print,** $80, Hello Polly, in Nyttja fibreboard **frame,** $3, Ikea. Tom & Peggy Pineapple plaster **wall tile,** $48, Alfresco Emporium. Sid Dickens New Beginnings plaster **wall tile,** $165, Domo. Retreat mangowood **bedside table,** $645, Globe West. **ON BEDSIDE TABLE from left** Angus and Celeste Cobalt Seed porcelain **bulb vase,** $90, Koskela. African glass **beaded necklaces,** $45/each, Orient House. Poppy ceramic **table lamp,** $115, No Chintz. Bespoke Teal & Cream linen **lampshade,** $105, Steal the Limelight. Anna Spiro Round & Round the Garden **wallpaper,** $220/10.5m roll, Porter's Paints. Avalon queen-size **bedhead,** from $1099, BedNest, in Wild Waratah **linen-cotton** in Pale Blue, $129/m, Utopia Goods. **ON BED from rear** Royal Doulton Fable Navy cotton **pillowcases,** $280/queen-size quilt cover set, Legend Australia. Miami Tilly Atlantic linen-blend **cushions** with feather inserts, $95/each, Coco Republic. Mondo queen-size linen **sheet set** in Seafoam, $536, Linen & Moore. Ingrid king-size cotton **quilt,** $412, Pigott's Store. Diane Bergeron Clara linen-cotton upholstered **ottoman,** $2010, Arthur G.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



'A painted feature wall works harder if you complement it with key furnishings and accessories that play on the same hue. Crisp white trims will set it off beautifully.' *Kate*

DOUBLE DUTY

With multipurpose furniture – a bunk bed, compact desk/dressing table and side table/stool – accommodating holiday guests is a breeze.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Buco open-weave **cylinder ottoman,** $80, Freedom. Jute **cushion** (sold with Ullu owl stool), $935, Boyd Blue. Mid-Century Mini eucalyptus **desk** (91x76x51cm), $599, West Elm. **ON DESK from left Potted succulent,** Mandalay Flowers. Pandanus **notebooks,** $30 (small), $40 (large), My Island Home. *Pelican* **artwork** by Rosie Stenta, $310 (framed), 414 Interiors. Atticus vintage ceramic **table lamp,** $399, Oz Design Furniture. Grace Garrett Sea Urchin linen **lampshade,** $176, Steal the Limelight. Dome Basket bamboo **ceiling light,** $249, Freedom. Carter beech king-single **bunk bed,** $2099, Domayne. **ON BUNKS** Nyponros single-size cotton **quilt cover sets** in Grey (includes quilt cover and two pillowcases), $40/each, Ikea. **TOP BUNK** Nevada linen-cotton **throw** in Denim, $130, Linen & Moore. Cloth Fabric Palm linen **cushion** (65x65cm), $120, Steal the Limelight. Awning Stripe cotton **cushion cover** in Capri (50x50cm), $80, No Chintz. **BOTTOM BUNK** Todd cotton **throw** in Indigo, $198, Linen & Moore. Cloth Fabric Palm linen **cushion** (65x65cm), $120, Steal the Limelight. Awning Stripe cotton **cushion cover** in Capri (55x55cm), $90, No Chintz. Räcka steel **adjustable curtain rod** (70-120cm), $2, and Raffig plastic **finials,** $2/pair, Ikea. **Curtain** in Kravet Upstream linen in River Blue Fish, POA, Elliott Clarke. Ranarp **wall/clamp spotlights,** $30/each, Ikea. Ito Kish mahogany and rattan **side table/stool,** $1940, Contents International Design. **Potted succulent,** Mandalay Flowers. Conch **shell,** $55, Sentosa Designs. **Curtain** in Kravet Waterpolo linen in Stone, POA, Elliott Clarke. Chevron Blue wool **outdoor ottoman,** $290, Sasson Home. Oyyo cotton dhurrie **rug** (2x3m), $2800, Koskela. **Main wall** painted Low Sheen Acrylic in K2, $101/4L, **feature wall** painted Low Sheen Acrylic in Starflower, $101/4L, both Porter's Paints. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.





Circa Collection by Voyager



Ambient Pendant $259



L'eau stools
from $401



Boston Dresser
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Barnaby Sofa Range
Made in Italy



Citta Design
Summer 15/16



Gava side table $564



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TRENDS

PASTEL POTIONS

Tone down your home with soothing pastels. Combined with linear and abstract shapes and innovative materials, these muted hues have a refreshing effect indoors.



1 / Basket Plus queen-size **bed** in Green E60, $6680, Fanuli; (02) 9908 2660 or www.fanuli.com.au. **2 /** Bloomingville ceramic **mug** in Mint, $80/set of four assorted, French Bazaar; (03) 9017 7892 or www.frenchbazaar.com.au. **3 /** Resin Bones Fan **choker** in Jade Pool Swirl, $345, Dinosaur Designs; (02) 9698 3500 or www.dinosaurdesigns.com.au. **4 /** Bo aluminium **table** with spotted-gum top, from $2676, Jardan; (03) 8581 4988 or www.jardan.com.au. **5 /** Karimoku chestnut **side table,** $1074, Stylecraft; (02) 9355 0000 or www.stylecraft.com.au. **6 /** Vitra Rotary plastic **tray** in Ice Grey, $90, Living Edge; 1300 132 154 or www.livingedge.com.au. **7 /** Tami oak and plywood **side chair** in Dusty Blue, $295, Clickon Furniture; www.clickonfurniture.com.au. **8 /** Smudge linen **cushion** in Dusty Pink, $52, Hello Polly; www.hellopolly.com.au. **9 /** Liquid resin **salad servers** in Ice Blue, $100, Dinosaur Designs. **10 /** Vesta cotton and lurex **rug,** $349, Ziporah; www.ziporahlifestyle.com.au. **H&G**

Produced by Sarah Maloney.

TRENDS

SPACE MISSION

Reach for the stars with pieces that go beyond the ordinary. Inspired by the Milky Way and the beauty of the twinkling night sky, these evocative homewares are light years ahead of the rest.



1 / Constellation machined-brass **pendant light**, from $935, Anaesthetic; www.anaestheticdesign.com. **2 /** Ink concrete **trivet** in Grey (20cm), $35, Zakkia; (02) 8002 7498 or www.zakkia.com.au. **3 /** Gold Rush earthenware **vessel** in Metallic (30cm), $40, Freedom; 1300 135 588 or www.freedom.com.au. **4 /** Stella linen **cushion** in Midnight (55x55cm), $129, Hale Mercantile Co; www.halemercantileco.com. **5 /** Antoinette Ferwerda for Ninnho Watermark velour and terry cotton **bath towels,** $79/each, Top3 by Design; 1300 867 333 or www.top3.com.au. **6 /** Tribute Quartzite Sapphire Blue marble and American-oak **coffee table**, $3500, Zuster; (03) 9427 7188 or zuster.com.au. **7 /** Night Sky canvas and timber **chart** (125x90cm), $300, Telegram Open House; (03) 9314 4304 or www.telegramopenhouse.com. **8 /** Kartell Masters Metallic polypropylene **chair** in Gold, $785, Space; (02) 8339 7588 or www.spacefurniture.com.au.

H&G

Produced by Kayla Gex.



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H&G BRAND PROMOTION

Serene SANCTUARY

Create your own calm haven with the Australian House & Garden range of summer bedlinens and accessories, now in store. Exclusive to Myer.



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Designer Bethany Linz's Cacti **wallpaper collection** for Sparkk, from $113/m, tickles our fancy. www.sparkk.com.au.



H&G STYLE AWARDS

Pretty, practical and downright dazzling, this line-up of Australian design gems deserves a good home.

PRODUCED BY **ASHLEY PRATT**

Great things in storage



FURNITURE

Think of these sophisticated hero pieces as investments to treasure for years to come.

- Zuster's Halo **storage and wine cabinets,** $6500/each, command attention. Made from American oak with marble and brass details, they ooze class. www.zuster.com.au.
- Adam Lynch's elegant TBC2 steel **dining chair** with leather seat, $700, will look even better with age and wear. Catapult Design; www.catapultdesign.net.au.
- Designed in Melbourne by Jardan, the Noah oak-veneer **sideboard,** $3882, has Art Deco overtones. www.jardan.com.au.
- Inspired by the simplicity and functionality of Japanese design, Tide Design's Tana **shelf unit** in Tasmanian oak, from $2570, is customisable. tidedesign.com.au.









Photograph by Jason Busch (Aran bed). Styling by Megan Morton (Aran bed).

- Maintaining strong architectural lines, the Gideon reclaimed-timber **console,** $2900, is a handsome addition to any interior. MCM House; www.mcmhouse.com.
- Here's a modern way to add texture to your bedroom: the Aran upholstered **bed** by Adam Goodrum, $7000, is hand-stitched in a classic quilted pattern. Cult; www.cultdesign.com.au.
- The velvet-covered Claude **sofa** (right), $7590, from Arthur G is as alluring to look at as it is to lounge on. www.arthurg.com.au.
- A fine synthesis of lines and curves, the Ari **sofa** (below), from $4050, is the very picture of chic. Something Beginning With...; www.somethingbeginningwith.com.au. ▶



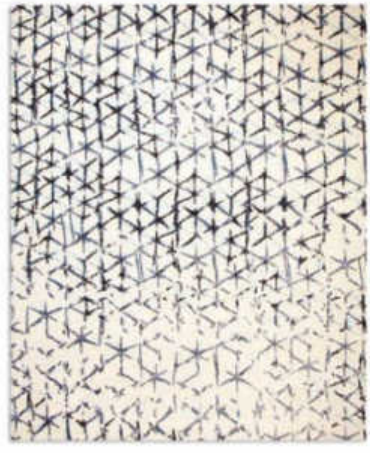


A rosy outlook for colour

top 3 rugs

- Boyd Rugs Maken recycled-sari silk **rug** (2.4x3m), $4805, Boyd Blue; www.boydblue.com.
- Christine McDonald Coal Coast hand-knotted Tibetan wool **rug** (2.4x3.4m), from $5490, Designer Rugs; www.designerrugs.com.au.
- Too Much Sugar Beni wool **rug** (1.2x2m), $650, Olli Ella; www.olliella.com.au.







TEXTILES

Pretty, covetable soft furnishings add grace to all areas of the home.









✚ Heritage Australian textiles brand Warwick Fabrics delivered the gorgeous Cornucopia **fabric collection** this year. Its soft florals and elegant geometric patterns are ideal for updating your living room. $110/m; www.warwick.com.au.

✚ Hale Mercantile Co's signature Flocca linen **bedlinen** (left), from $69/pillowcase, features hand-tufted edges and dreamy hues. www.halemercantileco.com.

✚ The Thurlow linen **throw** (above) has a soft cotton border, $280, Sheridan; www.sheridan.com.au.

✚ Climb into In The Sac's linen **bedlinen,** $395/queen-size sheet set (far right), in new, must-have colour, Musk. www.inthesac.com.au.

✚ Utopia Goods' popular Wild Waratah cotton-linen **fabric,** $129/m, now comes in the Earth colourway (right). utopiagoods.com.

✚ Walter G's fresh collection of hand-blocked **textiles** (left) includes Scales, Nila and Sardines napkin sets, $49/set of four. www.walter-g.com.au.

top 3 cushions

✚ Entomology linen-blend **cushion,** $132, Sparkk; sparkkshop.com.au.

✚ Blue Moon velvet and cashmere **cushion,** $340, Cakebread; www.elisecakebread.com.

✚ 3D Quilted cotton **cushion** (in yarn from offcuts) in Blush, $129, One Another; www.oneanother.com.au.







Photograph by Matthew Stanton (Blue Moon cushion).





✚ Marble meets brass in the Infinitude **homewares** (above), from $55/each. Lightly; lightly.com.au.

✚ Poised to take flight, the ceramic Stingray **bowl** (above right), $200, and Samantha **bowl,** $446, are of true heirloom quality. Middle Road; www.middleroad.com.au.

✚ Store your favourite shoes in a Santiago aluminium and walnut **stand with six drawers,** $1341. Sagitine; www.sagitine.com.

✚ Sip in style from a Rebel crystalline **flute** with 24ct-gold trim, $70. Waterford Crystal; wwrd.com.au.



HOMEWARES

Chic wares fuse cutting-edge style and timeless beauty, elevating the everyday.

Lasting quality



✚ These II terracotta **vases,** from $220/each and by Alana Wilson, look striking with or without flowers; www.alanawilson.com.

top 3 for kids

✚ Sierra Weave wool-blend **rug** in Fairyfloss, $345/m², Armadillo &Co; www.armadillo-co.com.

✚ My Treasure Board plywood **shelf unit,** $165, One Two Tree; www.onetwotree.com.au.

✚ Down to the Woods Wee Poppet rattan **bassinet** with canvas base cushion, $565, The Woodsfolk; www.thewoodsfolk.com.au.











✚ Freedom of movement is a hallmark of the Studio 6 metal **wall lamp** with brass details, from $385. It can tilt and bend as desired. ISM Objects; www.ismobjects.com.au.



LIGHTING

The best and brightest fittings create atmosphere whether on or off.



✚ Australian ceramicist Valissa Butterworth has turned her hand to glass-blowing and produced the divine Naked **pendant lights,** $695/each. Oxley Butterworth; www.oxleybutterworth.com.au.

Artisanal offerings

✚ Available in powder-coated or anodised finishes, Aura **pendant lights** (above left) emit a gentle glow. From $950/each, Ross Gardam; www.rossgardam.com.au.

✚ A Fizi Ball glass and steel **wall light** (above centre), from $1400, instantly creates a sense of drama. Articolo; www.articolo architecturallighting.com.au.

✚ If lights are jewellery for the home, the Rough Diamond copper **chandelier** (above right), $3500, by Ben-Tovim Design is serious bling. Catapult Design; www.catapultdesign.net.au.

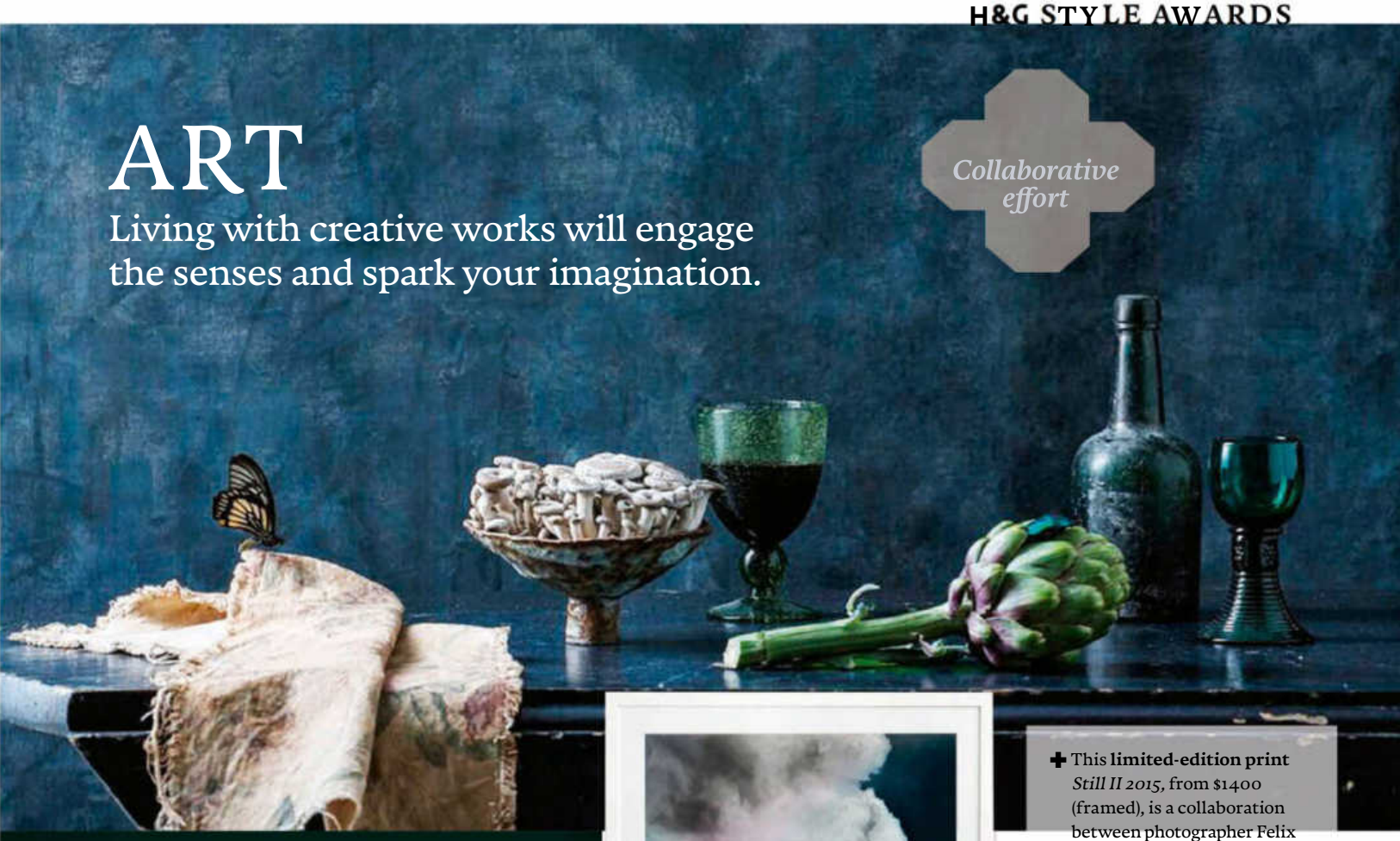
✚ In clear or frosted glass, and a range of gem-like colours, Softscape glass **pendant lights,** $1260/each, look fab in a cluster. Stylecraft; stylecraft.com.au.

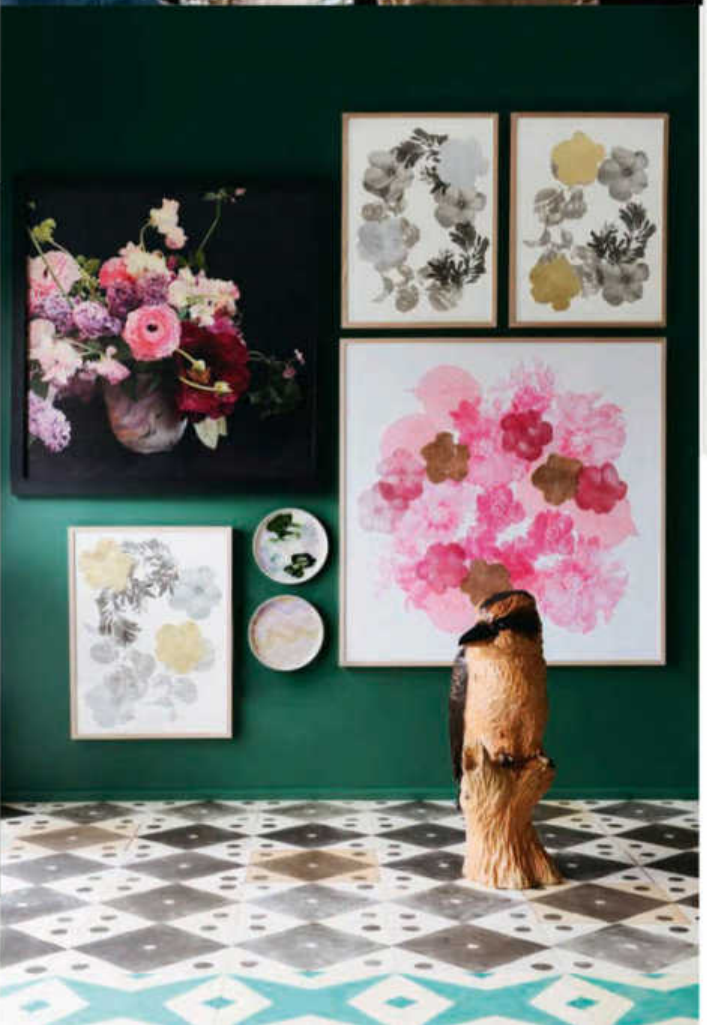


ART

Living with creative works will engage the senses and spark your imagination.

Collaborative effort

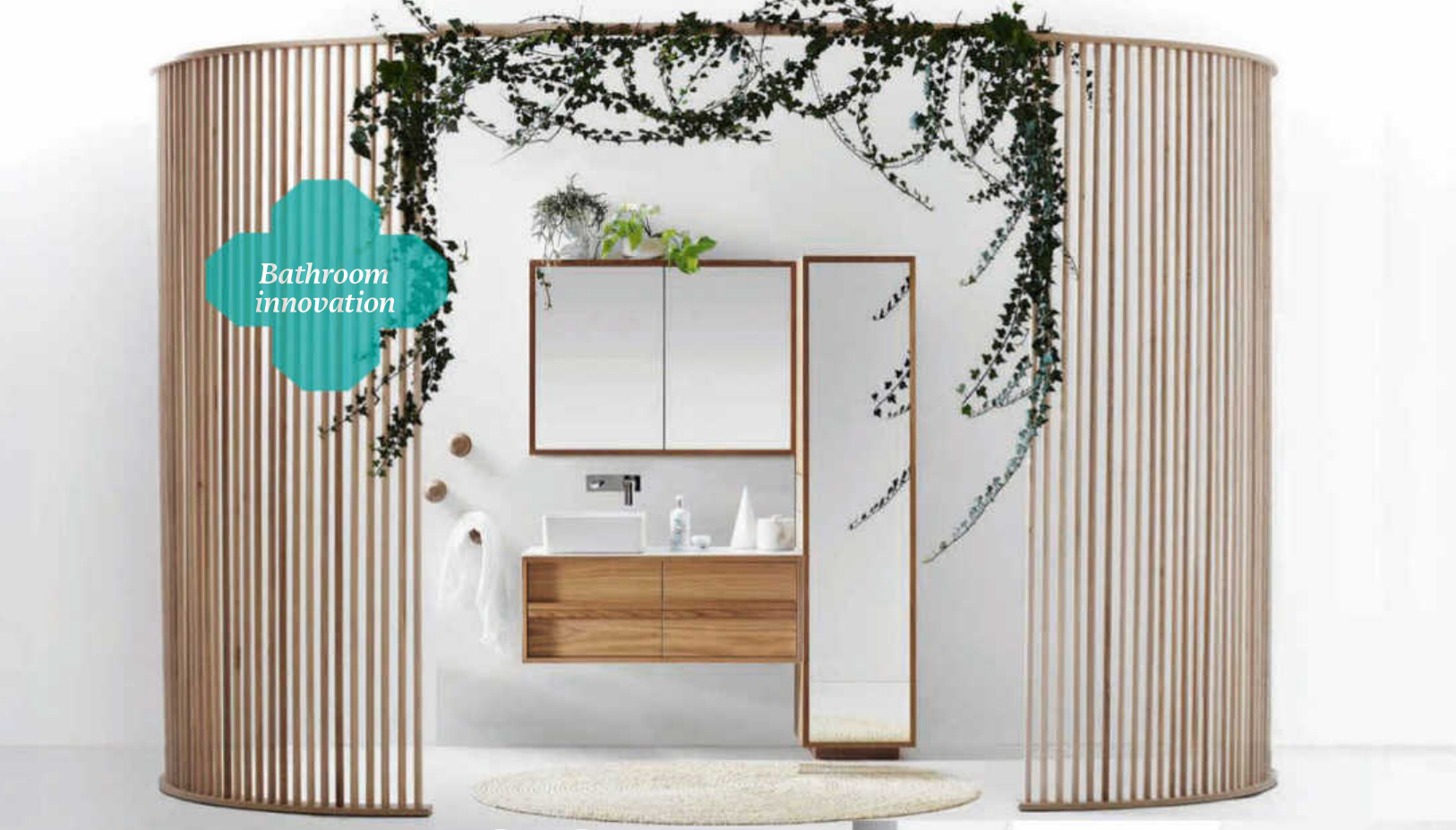






- This **limited-edition print** *Still II 2015*, from $1400 (framed), is a collaboration between photographer Felix Forest and stylist Claire Delmar. Becker Minty; www.beckerminty.com.
- Interior designer Shaynna Blaze enters the affordable art market with an ethereal **print on canvas,** *Transcend – Imagine*, $120 (left). Urban Road; urbanroad.com.au.
- Sculpted from old telegraph poles, Jo Wilson's *Totem 03*, $1760 (below, left), and *Untitled 01*, $825, **sculptures** deliver bang for your buck. Criteria; www.criteriacollection.com.au.
- Treat your walls to pretty **botanical prints,** from $485/each, by design duo Bonnie and Neil; bonnieandneil.com.au.





Bathroom innovation

BATHROOM

Set up a sanctuary for retreat and renewal with luxe fittings and accessories.





- For a simple yet striking **vanity,** look no further than the exquisite lines and fine craftsmanship of the Issy Zuster Z8 Butterfly design in American oak. A collaboration between Reece and Melbourne furniture firm Zuster, it's made to order. POA; www.reece.com.au.
- Set the scene for sheer bathing bliss with the Chentro stone-composite **freestanding bath,** $4377. Aqva; www.aqva.com.au.
- Taking its design inspiration from shallow water running over a sandy beach, the Cyan **bath towel,** $190, is made from hand-loomed organic cotton with a hand-tied fringe. Loom Towels; www.loomtowels.com.





top 3 taps

- Sussex Calibre **mixer** in Living Rustic, $656, Candana Bathroomware; www.candana.com.au.
- Pinch floor-mounted **bath filler** in Brass, $930, Rogerseller; www.rogerseller.com.au.
- Millie Axon **basin mixer** in Rose Gold/Black, $1100, Reece; www.reece.com.au.





✚ The versatile Echo linen **throw,** $149, by Kate & Kate works overtime as a table cover, a throw or even a picnic blanket. www.kateandkate.com.au.

KITCHEN

The heart of the home beats a little faster in anticipation of these gorgeous updates.





✚ If you're passionate about cooking, then Cantilever Interiors' custom-built **K3 layout** (right), both functional and fabulous, is the kitchen of your dreams. POA; cantilever interiors.com.

✚ We love Country Road's Art stoneware **canisters** (far left), from $20/each. www.countryroad.com.au.

✚ The Tutto linen **tea towel** (left) $32, is highly absorbent and highly attractive, too. Hale Mercantile Co; www.halemercantileco.com.

✚ Shibori wooden **serving boards,** $120/each, are fun pieces for entertaining. www.shibori.com.au.

✚ Refresh kitchen surfaces with the latest Impressions palette of **laminates** from Laminex, from $88/m².





✚ Bring colour and pattern to dining tables with this mix-and-match porcelain **tableware** from Aura by Tracie Ellis, from $13/each. www.aurahome.com.au.

OUTDOOR

Designers respond to Australia's love of easy, breezy alfresco living.

- Trent Jansen's stainless-steel Tidal **chair** for Tait, $670, taps Australian casual cool. madebytait.com.au.
- Update a verandah with Raphael concrete-resin **planters,** from $50/each, Papaya; www.papaya.com.au.
- Nick Rennie's Mushroom polythene **lamp** for Ligne Roset will turn heads. $1150, Domo; domo.com.au.
- Taking a leaf from the tropics... the Banana Palms Nocturnal cotton-linen **cushion,** from $99. Grace Garrett; gracegarrett.com.
- The King Cove upholstered **outdoor sofa and matching table,** POA, epitomise sleek minimalism. King Living; www.kingliving.com.
- A rich terrazzo surface tops the geometric Little Italy metal **side table,** $450. Redfox & Wilcox; redfoxandwilcox.com.au. **H&G**

- The Lester **outdoor dining table,** $3080, is made from durable fibreglass. Horgans; www.horgans.com.au.
- The Bollyhood **tandoor and pizza oven (below),** looks fab and promises summer fun. From $2800. Robert Plumb; www.robertplumb.com.au.

SUMMER ENTERTAINING

take the party outside in style



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MASTERCLASS #12

ENTRANCES



Make a good first impression with an entrance that is as beautiful as it is functional and welcoming, writes **Darren Palmer.**



Real-estate types use the term 'kerb appeal' to describe the way your house looks from the street. It's the first opportunity to present your home in its best light. And you rarely get a second chance to make a good first impression.

What begins on the street applies indoors too. The immediate impression gained once inside the front door will stay with everyone who enters; guests, your children, and you. So how do you make the right impact?

The project brief, as we have ascertained previously, is all-important. Contained in the brief should be a good deal of information detailing how you want your home to feel. That mood will dictate your palette throughout and should be easily and clearly communicated from the second you step inside.

We'll start with what happens if your door opens straight into a hallway. If you're in a house or apartment where the layout peels off a series of doors from a hallway, never fear, you have plenty of opportunities to make an impact.

Zoning is always your friend and in a long hallway being able to break the space into distinct areas will allow a more interesting transition into the layout. Think about the first part of the hall as the landing zone. This might be the place you lay down a runner or small rug that will help demarcate it. A feature light, be it a wall sconce or pendant light if height permits, will provide that second anchor point outlining a space.

Now we're starting to get somewhere! Think about the purpose of the entry too. It is the place you throw your keys, drop your bags and kick off your shoes. Anything that helps you achieve these tasks in a neat and comfortable way should be encouraged, so consider a narrow console table coupled with an artwork, or a lamp with some mementos from your travels. A bunch of flowers or a plant is always good, as is the importance of smelling something appealing when you open the door. This could be as simple as a room diffuser, a lit candle or any other fragrance source that gives you that "Ah, I'm home" signal. Don't forget that you need the space to be functional, too, so a dedicated place for keys, bags, umbrellas and shoes worked into storage under or around the console table makes the pretty space work for its money too.

Photograph by Maree Homer/bauersyndication.com.au (hallways, this page and opposite), Alamy (side entrance). Artwork by Dale Frank.



HALLWAYS ARE BRILLIANT OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOWCASE ART.

Righto, so we've made it inside the door. But what about that long hallway that feels like an infinite run of doors and walls? Hallways or the walls beside staircases are brilliant opportunities to showcase art. If you're not a collector it's fine to show off the things that you love by creating a cluster of your favourite photographs in a salon hang. Consider using one style of frame but in different sizes, or making all of your pictures black and white but going all out with the frame type, shape or colour.

Adding a hall runner in a long, narrow area can be just the ticket, softening and warming up your transition into the home both physically and visually.

All of these tips are great for any type of entry. However, if you have the luxury of space, think about increasing the sense of drama and the scale of your pieces. Instead of a narrow table look for a large, round table and pair it with a dramatic floral arrangement. You might upscale the photographs to a large artwork. You can tie disparate elements together by repeating an aspect of its colour, shape or texture elsewhere in the space.

Rugs are as important in large entrances as they are in smaller hallways. A round rug beneath a round table sets a focal point while allowing you to move freely around the room. **H&G**

AND FOR SIDE ENTRANCES...

It's all very well to jazz up the experience for anyone coming in through the front door, but what of the secondary or servants' entrance – and by servant, of course, I mean you! The passage from the garage into your home, usually through the side of the house, should be just as appealing to your senses and your needs as the front one. Frankly, it's great if guests or your in-laws ooh and ahh about your lovely home, but why shouldn't the person who actually pays the bills enjoy entering too?

An everyday family entrance or exit at the rear or side of the house, or accessed from the garage, needs to work harder. It may be less glamorous but the rise of the mudroom shows that you can have a robust, functional and beautiful space by considering the details. Storage is the key to keeping shoes and schoolbags under control. The material of the door fronts, the detailing in the handles, and any other joinery flourishes are as important here as in any space in your home. If your laundry does double duty as a side entrance, think carefully about what the benchtops are made from, with function and visual appeal being equally important. You might also consider hiding the appliances behind doors and presenting the room as stylishly as function and space allow. An upholstered bench seat in a mudroom is a great place to rest for a second while levering children's shoes on before bundling everyone out the door. A mirror that serves as a focal point on a wall also presents you with a last-check opportunity as you leave the house, so *you* can make sure you make the best first impression possible.

For more tips from Darren, use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.



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At home with designer and retailer Elise Heslop

Styling by Julia Green. Photograph by Armelle Habib.

INSIDER

NEST / NEWS / DESIGN MOMENT / SUMMER LOVIN'

ELISE HESLOP
Plyroom

Elise shares a thoughtfully curated sanctuary in Melbourne with her husband Shane and their sons Charlie and Sam.







MY FAVE THINGS
(see previous page)

Pendant light One of the gorgeous Villa pieces sold through Plyroom. It casts such beautiful light.

Vintage travel poster I love the way this portrays skiing so glamorously. Sestriere is a special place in Italy we visited many times when we were living overseas.

Sofa Even after kids and the mess that comes with them, this amazing Norman+Quaine piece is still going strong.

Throw By Finnish weavers Lapuan Kankurit. It reminds me of blankets my grandmother had.

Coffee table Another Villa piece. I love its craftsmanship and its practicality.

Sunglasses By Grown. I love that they are made from sustainable materials.

Cup and saucer My special set. Sophie Harle's Shiko ceramics are so beautifully raw and modest.

Book *New Suburban* by Stuart Harrison ($70, Thames & Hudson). A gift from Shane.

Print A market purchase for my sons, who have shared a dream to buy a caravan since they were little.

Plyroom; 1300 709 399 or www.plyroom.com.au.

WHERE ELISE SHOPS FOR...
HOMEWARES SAGE X CLARE, A QUIRK OF FATE **BOOKS** READINGS **FLOWERS** FOWLERS FLOWERS **ART** PORT JACKSON PRESS



ISM Objects celebrates its 25th anniversary with a collection of refreshed classics, including the Clinker pendant light, from $1164/each, now available in copper. www.ismobjects.com.au.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

H&G readers have voted the serene 2010s palette (below) as their favourite in the Haymes Paint Colour Through the Decades competition. "This palette says a lot about how far we have come in valuing style over trends," says Wendy Rennie, Haymes Paint colour and concept manager. For more colour inspiration, go to www.haymespaint.com.au.



STORY OF A BRAND
Bang & Olufsen



1925
Founded in Denmark by Svend Olufsen and Peter Bang.

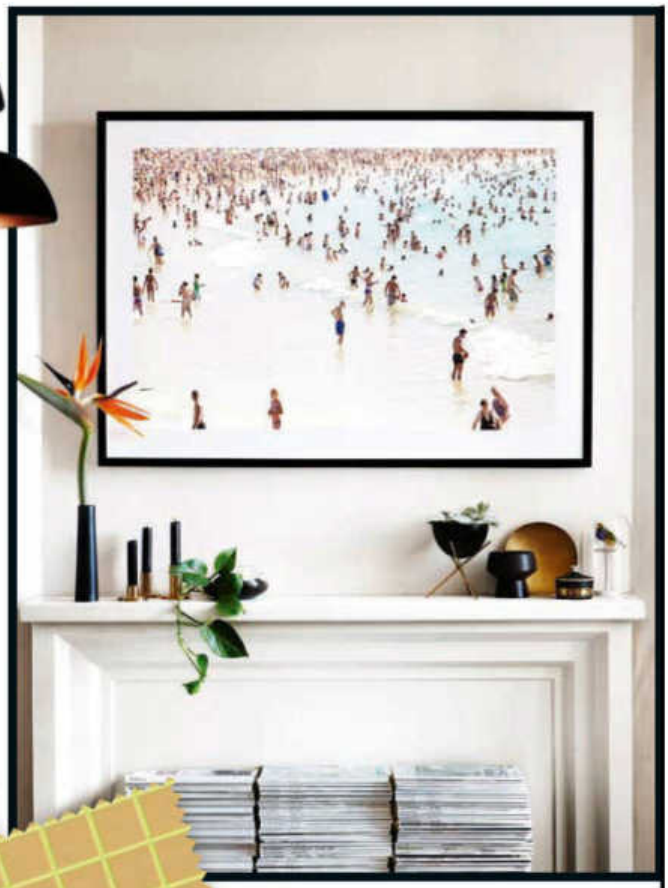


1926
The Eliminator converts battery radios to mains.



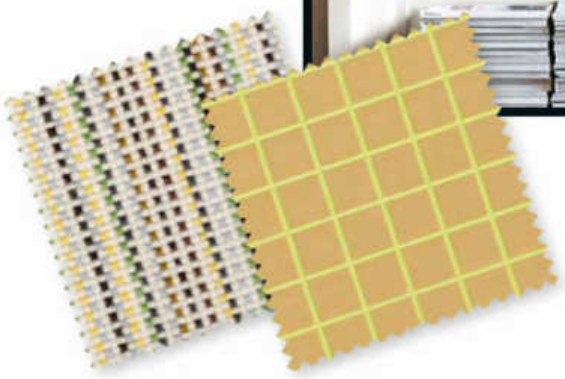
1938
The Beolit 39 radio is the first item with the 'Beo' prefix.





WELL TRAVELLED

Bring the vivid colours of gorgeous destinations into your home with a limited-edition print by photographer Armelle Habib, from $770 (unframed). Greenhouse Interiors; greenhouse interiors.com.au.



FABRIC FAVES

We love the textural appeal of Chroma (left, $718/m) and fresh tones of Bright Grid ($231/m), new from textiles firm Kvadrat Maharam; www.kvadratmaharam.com.

REINTERPRETED WITH OLIVE GREEN BELTING, RODA'S NETWORK 130 TEAK OUTDOOR SOFA, $12,995, IS A SMART-LOOKING PERCH FOR THE SUMMER LOUNGE LIZARD. DOMO; DOMO.COM.AU.



Text by Christina Gee. Photograph by Martina Gemmola (Haymes Paint palette).
Styling by Ruth Welsby (Haymes Paint palette).

NUMBER CRUNCH



Tiffany Buckins
Country interior design manager at Ikea Australia.

1943
founded

Ikea was founded in Sweden by Ingvar Kamprad with the goal of providing quality furniture at accessible prices. Since then, the company has grown to 315 stores worldwide, including nine in Australia.

11,300,000
visitors

Our nine Australian stores receive more than 11 million visitors each year. Globally, that figure topped 716 million people in the past year.

10,000+
products

In addition to the regular 10,000-item collection, we produce annual special collaborations with designers.

400
home visits

Each year, we visit selected homes to learn more about our customers and their lives. This is the starting point for designing solutions that answer their needs.

335,761
Facebook followers

We also have 51,200 Instagram followers, 7100 on Tumblr and 5500 on Pinterest. We love to share expert tips as well as news on our products and stores.

285
Christmas products

Our Christmas range includes decorations, gift wrap and entertaining products, including handmade glassware. ▶



1950
The company produces a prototype TV.



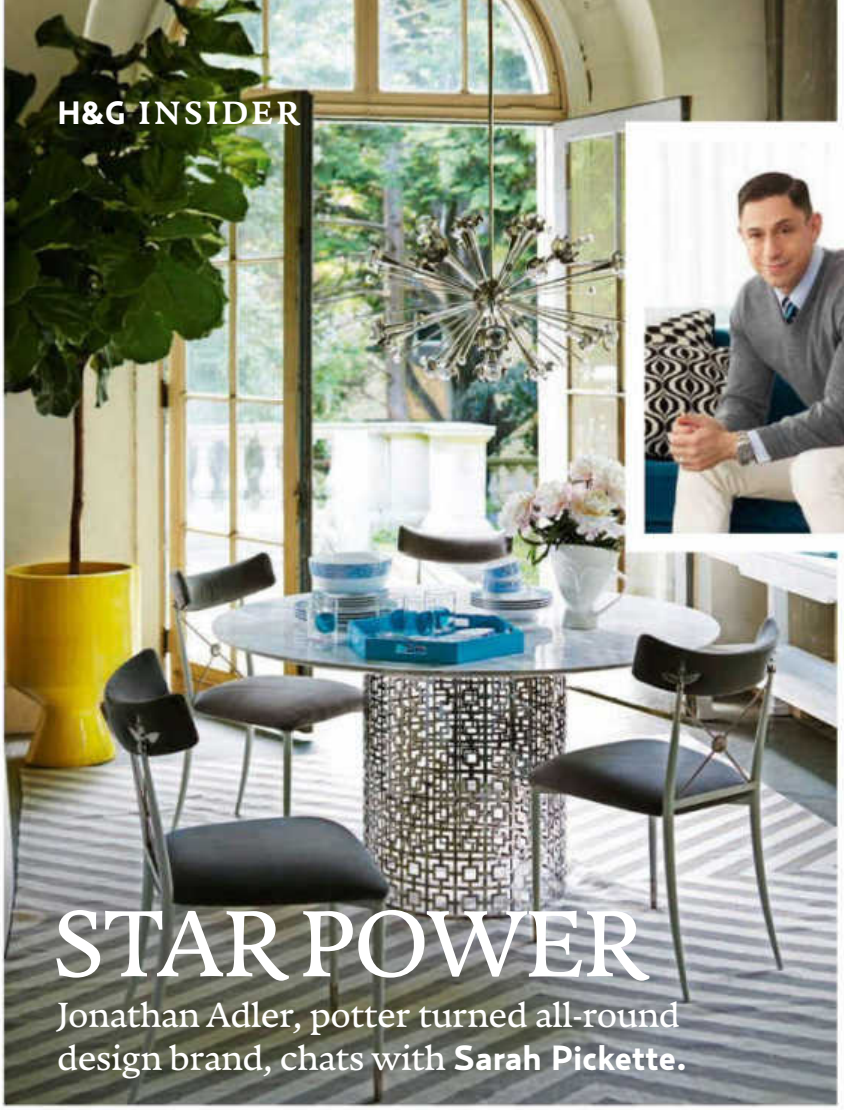
1964
The Beomaster 900 sets a benchmark for design and audio.



1970
B&O products shown at NYC's Museum of Modern Art.



2015
B&O celebrates 90 years with Beolab 18 speakers in rose gold.



STAR POWER

Jonathan Adler, potter turned all-round design brand, chats with **Sarah Pickette.**

Design superstars don't shine much brighter than Jonathan Adler. The New York designer made a whirlwind visit to Sydney recently to celebrate the launch of his furniture and homewares range at Coco Republic. *H&G* sat down with him on one of his gorgeous sofas:

Jonathan, welcome to Australia! We'd love to know what you make of Australian design... "I love that there's such a sense of possibility here. Australian designers aren't weighed down by cultural traditions that limit what they can do. They're not encumbered, and I think you can clearly see that in the work being produced. Marc Newson is a classic example; his designs are inventive and fresh. I also love the work of Jamie Durie and Greg Natale, whose rooms are always so perfect."

You first made your name as a potter. Do you still think like a potter? "Oh, definitely! If I sit next to someone on a plane and they ask me what I do, I instinctively say, 'I'm a potter'. That's not false modesty, it's just how I think of myself. I approach all my designs as I would approach clay. No matter what I'm designing, I'm looking for an elegant silhouette and perfect proportions."

Your designs are often described as glamorous. How important is it to have a little glamour in your home? "Every home should be eccentrically glamorous. By this I mean, let it reflect your personality; don't be boring! Glamour is a heady mix of beautiful materials, elegant proportions and a dash of sparkle." **H&G**

Shelf talk

Looking for a gift idea or some sumptuous reading material to while away long summer days? Leila Jeffreys' *Birdland* ($50, Hachette) and Laure Vernière's *Rajasthan Style* (about $85, Assouline) are gorgeous coffee-table tomes, while *The Encyclopedia of Antique Carpets* (about $349, Princeton Architectural Press) is a must for any antique lover's library.



CATCH OF THE DAY

This Australian House & Garden Kalbarri platter ($60) from Myer is spot-on for summer, if we do say so ourselves. www.myer.com.au.



Smartstone's new-generation Carrara delivers the delicately veined, luminous look of marble with the durable qualities of a quartz surface. About $825/m (installed). www.smartstone.com.au.



Currency conversions correct at time of printing.



Clock $189 Wooden Lantern $125 Buffet $1299 Display shelf $745 Table lamp $268 Marble side table $445 Oxford sofa $2799 Rug $599 Coffee table $645

Essendon DFO **Preston** **South wharf DFO** **Springvale** **Geelong**

www.koalaliving.com.au



DESIGN MOMENT

MONOPOLY

With nothing to lose, an out-of-work salesman rolled the dice with a board game developed on his kitchen table. Everyone was a winner, writes Chris Pearson.

The Great Depression saw millions out of work in the US, including Philadelphia heater salesman Charles Darrow (above). But he wouldn't be job hunting for long. In 1933, he was experimenting with a game that traded real estate. Produced on a round piece of oilcloth, it depicted the streets of nearby Atlantic City in marker pen and striking icons including a stern policeman.

Die-cast tokens, inspired by charm bracelets, included an iron, thimble, racing car, rocking horse and a cannon. Darrow's new game, Monopoly, proved a hit with his friends and he began producing it in large boxes, which he sold to local department store Wanamaker's. It attracted the interest of games manufacturer Parker Bros, but the company's powers that be had reservations about its complexity. Darrow streamlined the packaging and the rules and Parker Bros was sold. In 1935, Darrow took out a patent and Parker Bros began producing Monopoly commercially.

Within a year, 35,000 units were being made each week in the US. And it went trans-Atlantic, with Leeds firm John Waddington developing a British version where pounds replaced dollars and Park Place and Boardwalk gave way to Park Lane and Mayfair.

The game we know today is sold in 114 countries, in 47 languages and in more than 300 licensed versions. Plus one special variant – in 1941, the British Secret Service commissioned sets for POWs in Nazi Germany, with hidden escape maps, compasses and real money.

"Monopoly gives people the ability to engage in the fantasy of owning it all, and to be whoever they want, whether it's the negotiator, the banker, the tycoon or even the cheater!" says Sarah Galli, senior brand manager at Hasbro, current producer of the game. "It brings family and friends together, even if does end with someone flipping the board!"

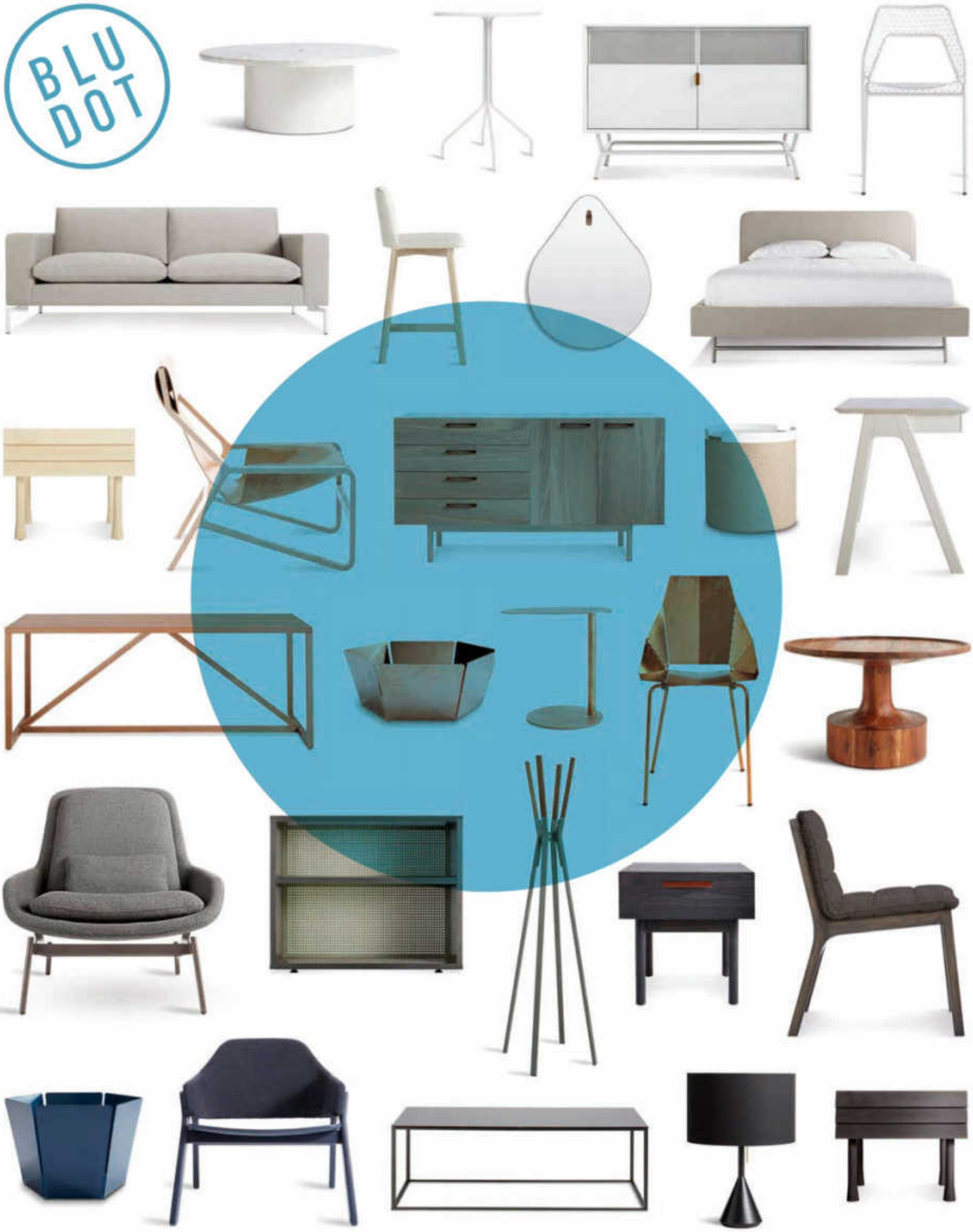
In the past 80 years, more than 1 billion people have played Monopoly, according to Hasbro, making it the most played board game in the world. Current Australian champion Tony Shaw says he relishes the element of luck. "Everyone with a basic understanding of the game has a chance to win, and every game is different. This makes Monopoly addictive – you want to play again and again."

WHAT IT MEANS TO US

In 2008, an international edition, Monopoly Here & Now World, replaced streets with cities chosen by fans via an internet poll. In a second vote in 2015, Sydney scored a magenta spot with New York and Amsterdam. Other innovations include credit and debit cards in Monopoly Electronic Banking, and modern tokens such as a Segway, flatscreen TV and a space shuttle. And, as proof of the game's continuing popularity, its Facebook page has more than 11.5 million fans, who voted on a House Rules edition with five new rules. But when Monopoly turned 80 in 2015, Hasbro went back to the future. It released an 80th Anniversary Edition featuring Darrow's Atlantic City board, original rules and a token from each decade, including a Monopoly World Championship trophy. **H&G**

Hasbro; hasbro.com.

Images courtesy of Hasbro; www.hasbro.com/games/en_au.



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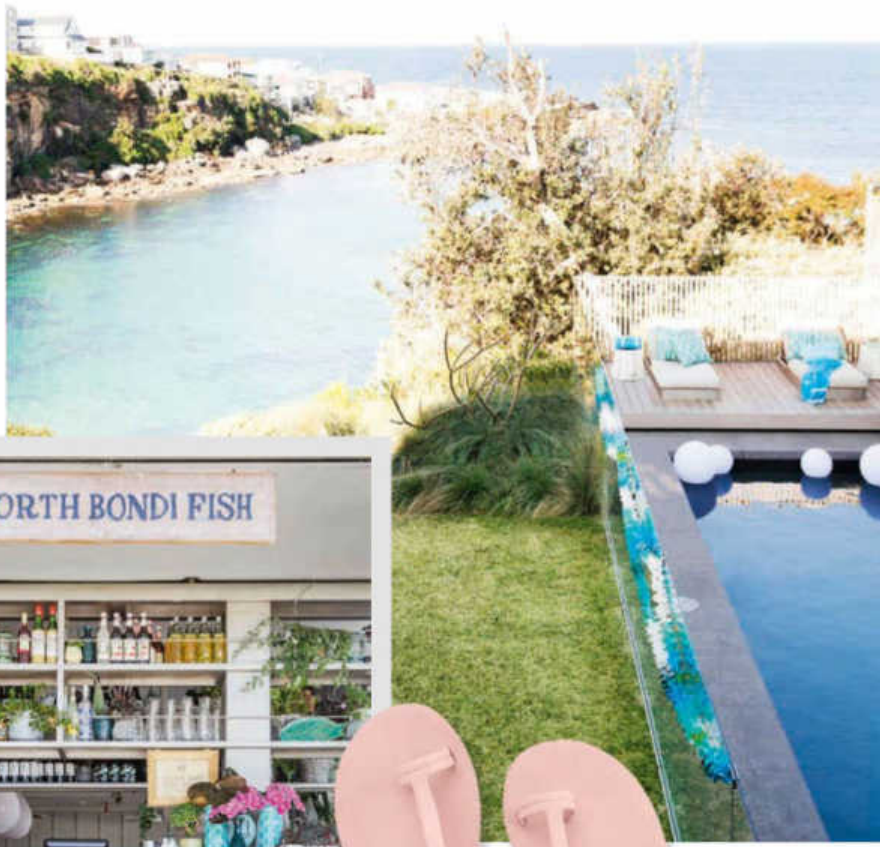
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SUMMER LOVIN'

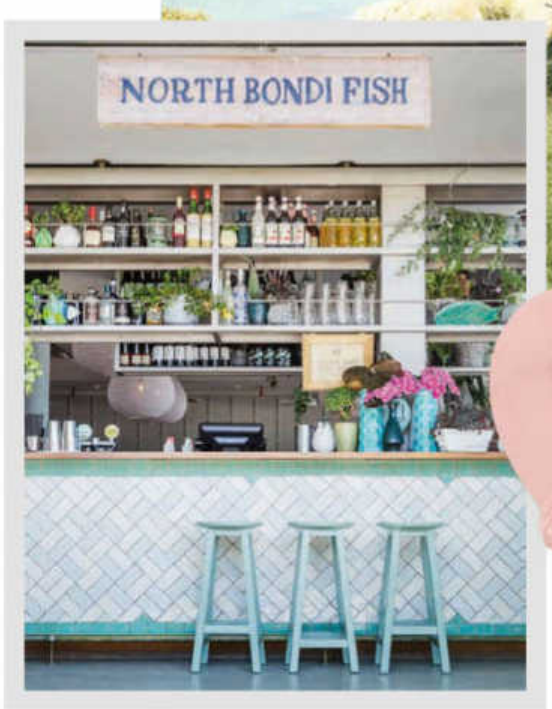
January is a time of sunshine and blue sky thinking. We asked local style setters to share their secrets for a fun-filled, enlightening season.





Indira Naidoo
TV presenter, edible garden guru and author

Favourite summer pastime? Cooking long leisurely lunches for friends.
Travelling over summer? My book tour for *The Edible City* ($45, Lantern) will take me to Hawaii, New York and Washington. I'll be visiting farms and growers' markets during my stopover in Honolulu. Can't wait!
On your reading list? *Island Home* by Tim Winton ($39.99, Penguin); *Foreign Soil* by Maxine Beneba Clarke ($24.99, Hachette); and *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks ($39.99, Hachette).
Soundtrack for summer? John Newman's *Tiring Game*.
Favourite sunset tipple? Aperol with soda water and slices of orange.
A restaurant you're keen to try? Three Blue Ducks at The Farm Byron Bay. I want to explore the farm and sample the squeaky fresh produce.
Fave summer gardening activity? I love the meditative benefits of watering. Watching the droplets of water bounce off the leaves... so satisfying.
How will you wind down over the summer holidays? By switching off my phone and devices as much as possible and using my hands to garden, cook, bake, paint and crochet instead.





Darren Palmer
Interior designer,* The Block *judge and* H&G *decorating columnist

Your ideal summer? Sun, sleep, sand and sea. This summer we'll enjoy as much beach time as is sensible now that we live in Bondi.
Will you be travelling? No, it's a staycation this year. But I live in what's considered a holiday destination by others so it's not really a compromise.
Favourite sunset tipple? G&T with cucumber and lemon.
A restaurant you're keen to try? I'm a creature of habit. I'm hoping for New Year's lunch at North Bondi Fish. China Diner and Da Orazio Pizza are other local favourites that we'll be enjoying.
How do you unwind? With sand between my toes and sun and salt on my skin, hearing the sound of the ocean and having an afternoon nap or two. It's when I move the slowest that the ideas come the fastest. ▶

Produced by Elizabeth Wilson. Photography by Chris Warnes/bauersyndication.com.au (pool). Recycled-rubber slides in Gardenia; www.myhoneybees.com.au.



SUMMER IS… STUNNING BLUE SKIES, SEA BREEZES, COLOURFUL GARDENS. WHITE SAND AND OCEAN TO THE HORIZON. SITTING OUTSIDE FOR BARBECUES AND LOUNGING AROUND THE POOL IN THE EVENING. JENNY JONES



Saskia Havekes
Florist and founder of Grandiflora

Summer is... A swim at [Sydney's] Nielsen Park, Negroni, Aperol spritz, fresh fruit, light clothes, bird sounds and cicadas. Bark peeling from the trunks of angophora trees.
Travelling over summer? Yes, to Huka Lodge, on New Zealand's North Island. I love the beauty of the landscape and the power of the Waikato River.



For a selection of these cocktail recipes, use the free *viewa* app, scan this page and follow the prompts.

What will you be reading? *H Is For Hawk* by Helen Macdonald and *M Train* by Patti Smith.
Favourite soundtrack for summer?
I love film scores. My favourite at the moment is the soundtrack from *Wild Tales*, a film by Damian Szifron.
Favourite summer bloom and why?
Magnolia grandiflora. The fragrance of the flower is so transient and complex. I'd love to picnic under one of these trees and fall asleep looking at the underside of the blooms.
What are your recommended vase fillers for summer?
Tropical leaves, ginger foliage and frangipani branches. Also masses of gardenia, deep-cerise peonies or flowering gum.

Favourite scent of summer?
Madagascan jasmine. The white blooms have fresh and aquatic base notes.
How do you get away from it all?
By riding through the bush on horseback with my daughters.



Jenny Jones
Designer and director of Jenny Jones Rugs

Summer is.... Stunning blue skies, sea breezes, colourful gardens. White sand and ocean to the horizon. Sitting outside for barbecues and lounging around the pool in the evening.
Fave soundtrack? My go-tos are: the Beach Boys, the Beatles, jazz and Barbra Streisand. But I love new music, too. My children introduce me to new bands.
A restaurant you're keen to try?
Bread In Common in Fremantle; it's all about fresh produce and great salads.
Tip for a summer home zhuzh-up?
Simple – add flowers and greenery. Flowers bring life to a room, literally.
How do you empty your head?
Year-round, I start my day with quiet time. It enhances my creative side and helps me to stay in the present.

SUMMER VASE FILLERS
'TROPICAL LEAVES, GINGER FOLIAGE AND FRANGIPANI BRANCHES. ALSO MASSES OF GARDENIA, DEEP-CERISE PEONIES OR FLOWERING GUM.' SASKIA HAVEKES

Photography from Getty Images (leaves, flower), Gorta Yuuki/bauersyndication.com.au (gate), Aimee Thompson (Megan Morton). All book prices provided by Dymocks; 1300 396 625 or www.dymocks.com.au. Huka Lodge; www.hukalodge.co.nz.



Del Kathryn Barton
Artist and two-time Archibald Prize winner

Your ideal picture of summer? My family and me, sitting on our eagle's-nest balcony at Whale Beach [on Sydney's Northern Beaches], Negroni cocktail in hand, having swum all day, with a stupendous view of the ocean!
Summer reading list? *Violet Obsession: Poems* by Yayoi Kusama.
Travelling over summer? We're heading to New York City in mid-January. I am showing there for the first time, which is very exciting. We'll then head to Colorado for some time in the snow.
Which colours say 'summer' to you? Purple, yellow, white, orange and green.
Your favourite summer pastimes? Swimming, sleeping and a rosé at lunch
A guilty pleasure? Tzatziki and salt 'n' vinegar chips!
How will you empty your head? I have given up trying to empty my head, it's always exploding with ideas!



Will Dangar
Landscape designer and founder of Robert Plumb outdoor furniture

Which plant says 'summer' to you? Frangipani trees. The flowers are so perfect and I love the shape of trees – they look like big mushrooms.
Summer is... ? We live in Bondi so for our family it's all about the beach.
What's always in your beach bag? Toys (our children are five and seven).
Books on your reading list? I love biographies and autobiographies. Next on my list is *Frank Lowy: A Second Life* by Jill Margo ($49.99, Harper Collins).



I enjoy reading about successful business people.
Favourite soundtrack for summer? I'm an '80s tragic so anything from that era.
What's your favourite sundowner? An icy cold beer.
Favourite summer food? My family is mad for sushi. We're regulars at Raw Bar in Bondi. We go to the beach early then have lunch there on the way home.
How will you unwind? I try to have an afternoon snooze on weekends and a few early-marks from work to hang out with my wife, Julia, and our children.



Megan Morton
Stylist, design aficionado and author

Summer is... Swimming and picnics with the children at [Sydney's] beautiful Murray Rose Pool. Lobster rolls, cordial and delicious ice-cream sandwiches.
What will you be reading? *Nature and Its Symbols* by Lucia Impelluso ($24, available through Amazon).

'I have given up trying to empty my head, it's always exploding with ideas!' ***Del Kathryn Barton***

SUMMER READING



H Is For Hawk by Helen Macdonald ($22.99, Random House Books).



The Education Of A Gardener by Russell Page ($24.99, Random House).



On Beauty And Being Just by Elaine Scarry ($28.99, Princeton University Press).



Foreign Soil by Maxine Beneba Clarke ($24.99, Hachette).



SUMMER IS... SWIMMING AND PICNICS WITH THE CHILDREN AT MURRAY ROSE POOL. LOBSTER ROLLS, CORDIAL AND DELICIOUS ICE-CREAM SANDWICHES.
MEGAN MORTON



◀ And *On Beauty And Being Just*, by Elaine Scarry.
Travelling over summer? I have two options: Queensland and Paris. I love both places in equal measure.
Favourite summer soundtrack? *Sedona* by HoundMouth.
Favourite sunset tipple? Mint julep.
How do you empty your head? I don't, I rev it up. I tend to take my 'up' time when other people are taking their downtime.

Tip for a summer home zhuzh-up? Remove the curtains. In my opinion, most window treatments are very wintry. Ideally, I'd recommend having a summer and a winter set but removing them altogether lets in the air, light and morning sunshine.



Paul Bangay
Garden designer and author

Summer is... always spent in my garden at [my country property] Stonefields, in central Victoria. My days revolve around gardening in the early morning, then lounging in the pool pavilion interspersed with dips in the pool. We have a grapevine-covered pergola on the terrace off the kitchen and we always dine there in the shade.

Books on your reading list? *The Gardens Of Arne Maynard* ($140, Merrell): the best gardening book released in the past 10 years. I'll also be re-reading *The Education Of A Gardener* ($24.99, Random House) by Russell Page, my hero.
Favourite soundtrack for summer? Gustav Mahler's Symphony No 5.
Favourite sunset drink? Pimm's. I make the best jug of Pimm's Classic.
A restaurant you're keen to try? Chris Lucas' new Melbourne restaurant Hawker Hall in Chapel St, Windsor. It's a new concept, serving Singaporean market food.

'MY DAYS REVOLVE AROUND GARDENING IN THE EARLY MORNING, THEN LOUNGING IN THE POOL PAVILION INTERSPERSED WITH DIPS IN THE POOL.'
PAUL BANGAY

Favourite summer gardening activity? Watering. I do it early morning and late afternoon and I get to see aspects of the garden I usually don't pause to see.
The plant that says 'summer'? Chinese star jasmine. Its cinnamon perfume is so heady on hot summer nights.
Guilty pleasure? Swimming naked in the pool on a hot night when everyone else has gone to bed!
How will you empty your head? Once the office closes, I head for Stonefields. I switch off the minute I enter the gates and oak-lined driveway. **H&G**

'Chinese star jasmine's cinnamon perfume is so heady on hot summer nights.' ***Paul Bangay***



Photography from William Meppem (drinks), Getty Images (Murray Rose pool), Alamy (star jasmine).

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VALUE BUY – Heritage by A.H. Beard Original Comfort Soprano QS ensemble with standard base $1899. Available in Plush or Cushion Firm.



SINGLES – Sealy Posturepedic Uno Deluxe SB ensemble $999.

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78 NSW
A light and airy addition makes the most of a generous block of land.

88 NSW
A pavilion-style home on the NSW South Coast is an architect's dream come true.

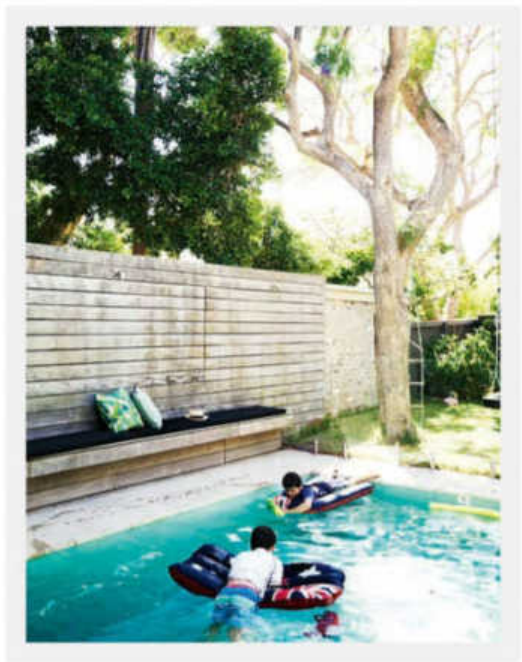
96 VICTORIA
A new kitchen and a muted colour palette set the tone in this calm and collected family home in Melbourne.

104 NSW
Restored heritage features are the icing on the cake in a contemporary Sydney renovation.

112 WA
This retired couple's home was inspired by a love of Japanese art and design.







40+ pages of homes that have smart-casual covered!





HOUSES

SUMMER RETREATS



FRESH perspective

In a Sydney home where a modern extension wraps around the 19th-century core, looking in is as rewarding as looking out.

STORY **ROSE-MARIE HILLIER** / STYLING **ASHLEY PRATT** / PHOTOGRAPHY **CHRIS WARNES**



EXTERIOR / Owner Fiona Shakespeare with Teddy the groodle in the smart new rear extension. Full-width glass stacking doors expand the living space, making summer living a breeze. Doors from Central Coast Shopfronts. Sandstone pavers, Skheme. Timber stool, Mark Tuckey. Artwork above sofa by Kristen Lethem. Copper planter, Malcolm Antiques. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



First and foremost, this is a family home. Sure, it ticks all the style boxes – eye-catching architecture, carefully curated furniture, a textural white palette and modern bursts of colour – but the home of interior designer Fiona Shakespeare and her husband, Ben, is also the ultimate family-friendly zone.

Sons Jack, aged 14, and Harry, 10, were preschoolers when their parents spotted this house for sale in Sydney's inner west. It fitted the bill on so many levels: a deep, double block, potential for a pool, a quiet leafy cul-de-sac location. There was a generous lawn, garden beds and beautiful old trees, perfect for a swing. In an area dominated by cheek-by-jowl stone-and-weatherboard cottages, the solid brick construction, high ceilings and elegant proportions were major drawcards, as was the big backyard.

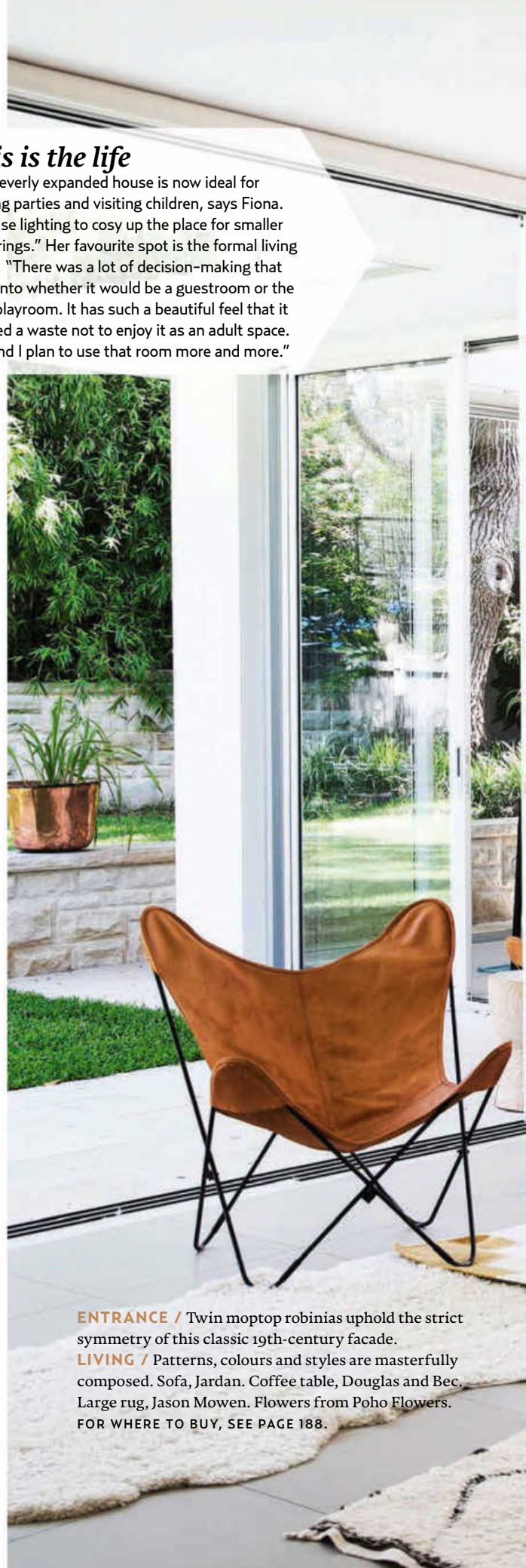
"It was charming and in great condition, considering it was built in the mid-1800s," says Fiona. "Structurally the house was fine, although the ceilings were sagging under the weight of dirt and coal dust."

The intention all along was to add to, and extend, the house. The family lived here for four years before engaging architects ESNH Design and builder X10d Constructions to undertake the year-long renovation. Fiona and Ben, who had a lot of input into the final design, gave the architects a strict brief. "We wanted a large kitchen/living/dining area, a new laundry, a media/playroom for the boys, an office and parents' retreat," says Fiona. "And we didn't want a copy of 'old'. We wanted it to look and feel like a giant boathouse or shed."

The rear verandah was removed and original sandstone foundations from an old shed were incorporated into the retaining wall of the new addition. The house's footprint was extended by 6m and a new upper level doubled the volume of internal space.

This is the life

The cleverly expanded house is now ideal for hosting parties and visiting children, says Fiona. "We use lighting to cosy up the place for smaller gatherings." Her favourite spot is the formal living space. "There was a lot of decision-making that went into whether it would be a guestroom or the kids' playroom. It has such a beautiful feel that it seemed a waste not to enjoy it as an adult space. Ben and I plan to use that room more and more."



ENTRANCE / Twin moptop robinias uphold the strict symmetry of this classic 19th-century facade.
LIVING / Patterns, colours and styles are masterfully composed. Sofa, Jardan. Coffee table, Douglas and Bec. Large rug, Jason Mowen. Flowers from Poho Flowers.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



Dulux Vivid White
extension, formal living room

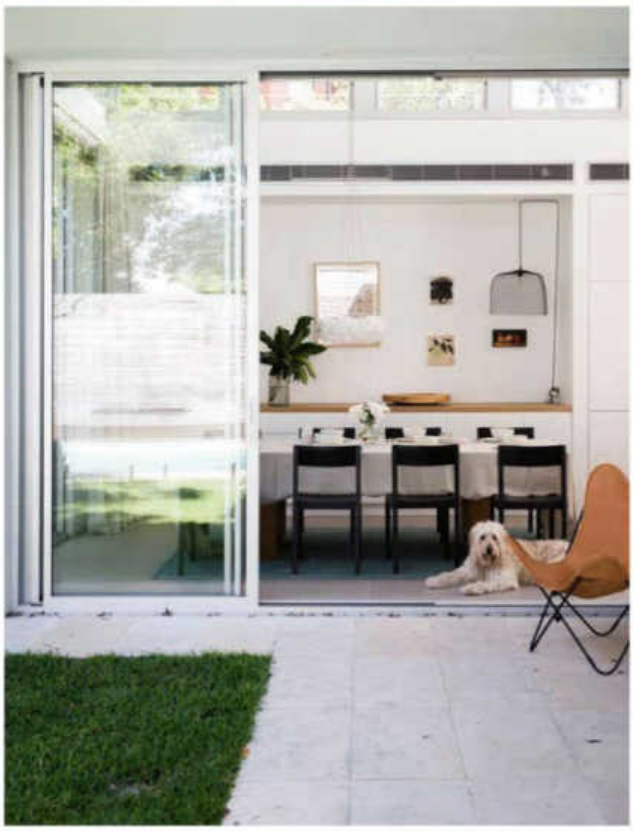
Porter's Paints Wood Smoke
hallway

Dulux China White
exterior

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.







KITCHEN / The layout, designed by Fiona and built by Degabriele Kitchens, incorporates Corian surfaces and a Starphire glass splashback. Mixer, Brodware Industries. Stools, Interstudio. Pappelina rug, Nordic Fusion. Pendant lights, Dunlin.

HALLWAY / Fiona spruced up a vintage sideboard with a coat of paint. Artwork by Sally Anderson. Chair, Cafe Culture+Insitu.

TERRACE / Porcelain tiles from Skheme merge with concrete pavers outside. **Designer buy:** Butterfly chair, from about $559, Big BFK.

DINING / Entertaining with an alfresco vibe. Dining chairs and pendant light, Hub Furniture Lighting Living. Dinnerware, Mud Australia. Rug, Armadillo&Co. Artwork by Roger Roberts. Flowers from Poho Flowers.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188. ▶



Summer retreat

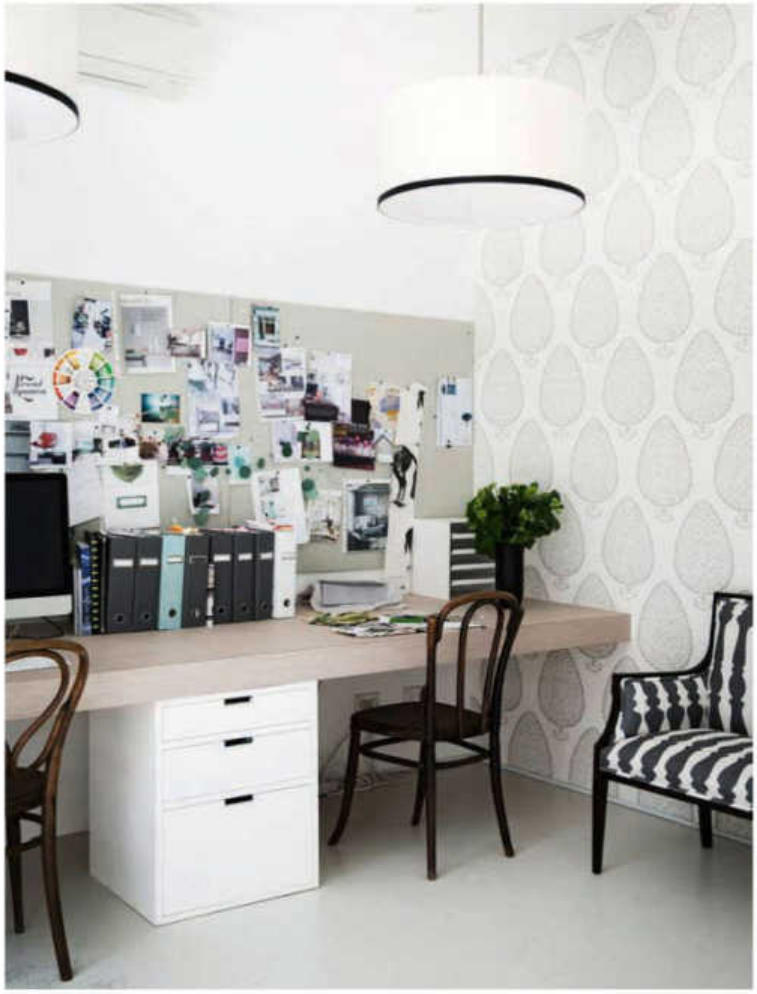
The qualities of this home encourage indoor–outdoor living and family interaction. "When the sliding doors are open, the kids can run in and out," says Fiona. The backyard offers a pool, a large lawn for play, and swings and ropes hanging from the old camphor laurel. Inside, things are equally idyllic. "Beautiful dappled light comes right into the kitchen until late in summer," says Fiona. "We love to linger there together instead of turning on the TV."

Watch Fiona share how she recreates her casual style. Use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.

viewa

Currency conversion correct at time of printing.


THE LAYOUT
Pool
N
Play
Living
Dining
Kitchen
Laundry
Bath
Living
Courtyard
Bed
Bed
Office
Bed
Bath
Wardrobe
Entrance
Garage





◀ The old, front, part of the house, with new ceilings and restored period features, has been refreshed and refurbished. Running along the hall are the boys' rooms, a formal living room and an old bedroom converted into a luxe bathroom. The end of the hall merges into a contemporary open living, kitchen and dining space, with a play/media room on the southern side. These new zones flow out to the garden and wrap around the original core to create highly liveable indoor-outdoor spaces and private courtyards. Fiona's office abuts the rebuilt garage and the new upper level accommodates the main bedroom suite.

Ben and Fiona love the airy quality of their new home. "We get really beautiful light, from every angle," says Fiona. "There is no 'bad' area; every room has a good feel."

Fiona is always on the lookout for gorgeous furnishings for clients, and her home benefits greatly from her resourcefulness. The inventory throughout includes a who's who of innovative designers and makers from Australia and overseas, with many pieces bought online. They're woven into a scheme based on Fiona's love of white, grey, blue and black hues, and given depth and texture with leather and timber furniture and plush rugs. "I want the house to feel comfortable, not austere," she says. Not to mention, deeply practical. "With a family, you can't have 'precious'," says Fiona. "No room is out of bounds here." ▶

Shakespeare Design, Balmain, NSW; (02) 8060 5788 or shakespeare-design.com.au.

'We get really beautiful light, from every angle. There is no 'bad' area; every room has a good feel.' ***Fiona Shakespeare***

OFFICE / Built onto the garage and opening to a side courtyard, this concrete-floored workspace is buffered from the noise of family life. Leaf wallpaper, Katie Ridder. Bentwood chairs, Doug Up On Bourke. Custom pendant light drum shades in glazed linen.
BATHROOM / A Victoria+Albert rolltop bath and Carrara marble vanity surface play up the old-world charm in this repurposed room. Custom blind in Romo Linara linen fabric.
FORMAL LIVING / This north-facing room is a favourite spot for relaxing. Sofa, Equator Homewares. Shibori cushion, Emily Ziz Style Studio. Rug, Designer Rugs. Artworks by Marcella Kaspar (above sofa) and Julie Paterson. Flowers from Poho Flowers.
Smart buy: Metropolitan coffee table, $699, MRD Home. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



LIVING / Full-width stacking doors from Central Coast Shopfronts and a glass fence enable uninterrupted views of the pool.
POOL / Harry (top) and Jack cool off. Custom cushions in Fab Outdoor Fabrics (left) and South Pacific Fabrics. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188. H&G



FEATURE PLANTS

FRONT YARD
Moptop robinias
Phalaenopsis orchids
SIDE COURTYARD
Potted herbs
Potted succulents
BACKYARD
Camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

HOME MADE

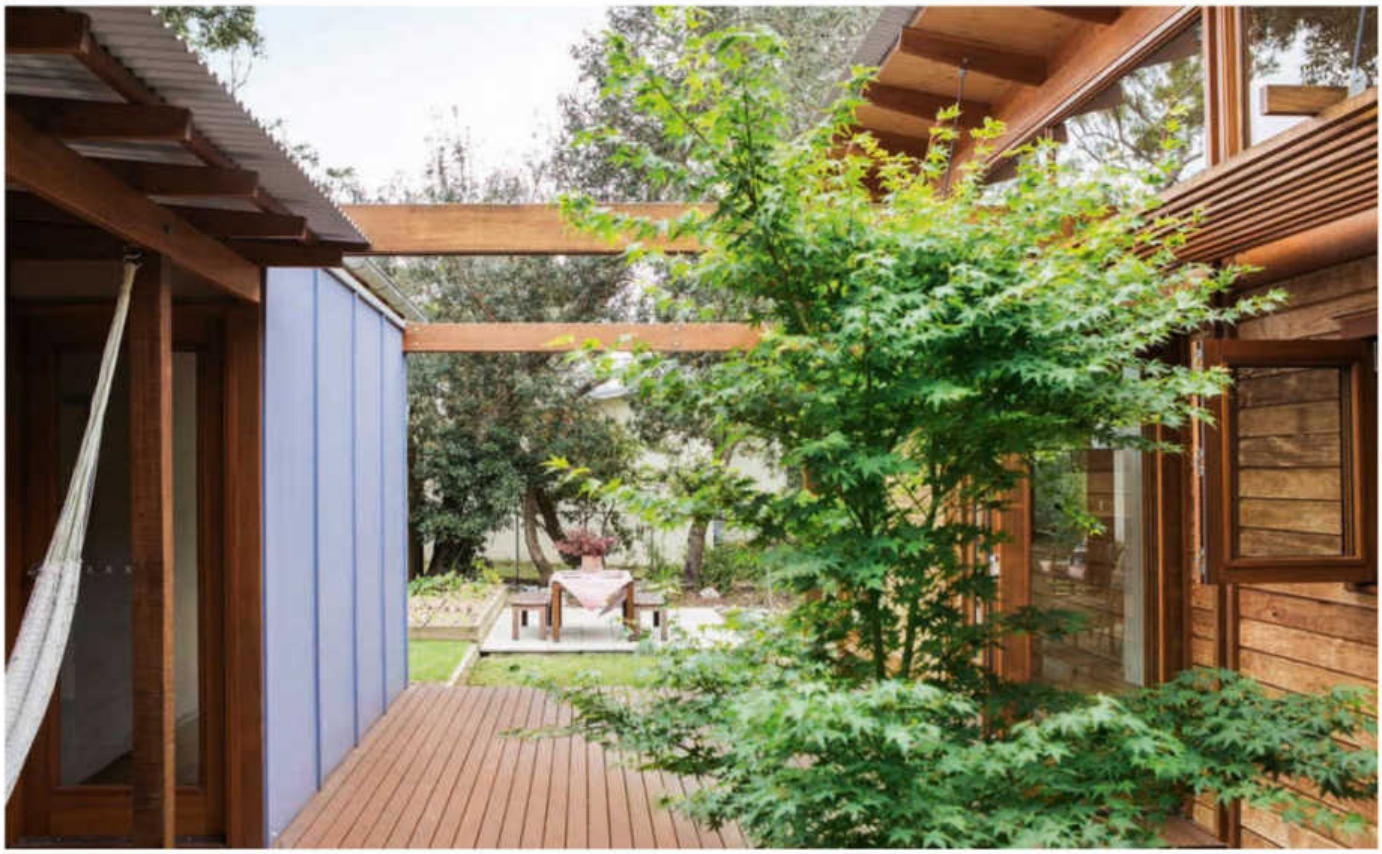
A well-travelled couple has combined Japanese and European design influences in a coastal NSW home that's destined to generate years of summery memories.

STORY & STYLING **KATE NIXON** / PHOTOGRAPHY **MAREE HOMER**





PATIO / "Even though the block is only 700m², it sometimes feels as though we are living in the bush," says architect and owner Anthony Knobel of this coastal haven. Outdoor table setting, S2dio. Concrete pavers, Boral. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



'We're outdoorsy people so we like that journey between the living room and bedroom, which takes us outside, past the courtyard.' ***Anthony Knobel***

COURTYARD / This is a lovely place to sit and contemplate the Japanese maple, says Anthony. "It's a peaceful spot and so relaxing with the hammock."
LIVING / A little light reading for Anthony and his daughter Audrey. The wall render uses local beach sand bought from a landscape supplier. Vintage armchairs and coffee table. Double-sided fireplace, Chazelles Fireplaces. Flowers, Mandalay Flowers. Seat cushions in fabric from Spotlight. Side table, sideboard and rug, Ikea. Bifold doors in western red cedar, Hanlon Windows. Pendant light, Beacon Lighting.
Smart buy: Tatler sofa, from $1799, Oz Design Furniture.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

He's travelled extensively, yet architect Anthony Knobel has always felt the pull of the sea and a simpler life. "I was born and bred in Canberra and spent a lot of time on the NSW South Coast as a kid," says Anthony. "My dad, who's a builder, had a lot of projects down there and I'd spend summer holidays working with him. So we had that history with the area."

In 2005, having just completed his degree, Anthony happened to spot an overgrown block of land for sale in a seaside village and bought it, with hopes of living there one day. That dream was put on hold for years while he travelled the world with Regina, who's now his wife and practice manager, but the couple would spend time on the block whenever they were back in Australia.

"We used to camp there to begin with," says Anthony. "Then we built a weekend shack out of recycled materials." That's now his studio. By the time the couple moved back to Australia in 2009, they were ready to start the main build.

"A lot of influences came from travelling and seeing so many places together," says Anthony. "We designed the house while we were on the move. The floor plan was sketched on the back of a boarding pass while flying between Japan and Finland. The Japanese influence really stuck with us. Japanese architecture is all about the finesse and detailing, and this design strives to achieve that." ▶



This is the life

After a few years of dividing their time between the NSW South Coast and Canberra, Anthony and Regina decided to make this sanctuary their full-time home. They now travel to the ACT when they need to consult with clients there. "We sit down a lot together as a family now, which we never really had time for in the past," says Anthony. "The first thing we do in the morning is pull back all the doors, then sit down to breakfast together."

THE PALETTE

Dulux Antique White USA
living, kitchen, main bedroom

Dulux Legal Eagle
exterior

Add a dash of

Haymes Paint Peppy



Summer retreat

Like her dad, little Audrey will enjoy happy memories of childhood summers on the South Coast. "The beach is just 300m away," says Anthony. When conditions are right, he grabs a surfboard from the shed and hits the waves. And back at home, the layout's articulated grid, sliding walls and open connections between pavilions work to merge the house with its bushland surrounds. A no-shoes policy inside fosters a carefree holiday ambience.





◀ Aware of the constraints of the block, which is surrounded by neighbours, the owners looked for view corridors to maximise the outlook – up into the canopy of trees above and out to borrowed views of adjacent gardens. Anthony pushed the house out to the boundaries and created a private courtyard space in the middle, with all living areas opening onto it. "The house is built like a Meccano set, with different components all assembled in a hardwood frame."

The layout is split into a two-bedroom pavilion, perfect for Anthony, Regina and two-year-old Audrey, and a living pavilion with a guestroom and bathroom tucked to the side. A simple palette of glass and timber, with masonry in a beach-sand render, allows fixtures and furnishings to shine.

Just as importantly, the house also speaks to each of its owners. "Regina is from Germany, in a place just near Denmark, so there are a lot of Scandinavian influences," says Anthony. And this really is the house that Anthony built – he and his father did everything save the plumbing, electrics and waterproofing. "It was a bit of an apprenticeship for me, but Dad had worked as a builder for 50 years," says Anthony. "If anything, it made our relationship stronger. We made this amazing house together, which we could bond over and talk about." ▶

Anthony Knobel Architect, Broulee, NSW; 0403 451 602 or www.anthonyknobelarchitect.com.au.

'Kids love to interact with this house – it captures their imagination. It feels a bit like a cubbyhouse and has a playful nature.' ***Anthony***

DINING / A vintage Parker table in teak takes pride of place. Replica Hans Wegner Elbow chairs. Bonderup & Thorup pendant light sourced in Denmark. Artwork by Francis Luke.
ENTRANCE / Audrey toddles down the entry ramp with Regina. The hardwood exterior cladding of the house will be left to weather to a soft grey patina.
KITCHEN / The kitchen layout, with a cooktop set into the island and servery hatch opening to the courtyard, encourages social interaction. Cabinetry, Ikea. Benchtops in Caesarstone Snow. Rangehood, Smeg. Replica Yvonne Potter stools, Relax House. Vase, Rosenthal. Foliage, Mandalay Flowers.
Designer buy: Grey Fleurs encaustic tiles in Dark Grey/White, $165/m², Jatana Interiors. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

BATHROOM / Sleek and earthy textures work in harmony here. Ceiling, marine ply. Tiles, Rivoland. Bath, Caroma. Custom-made vanity in reclaimed hardwood. Handmade basin by pottery artist John Payne. Mirror, Ikea. Wall light from BoConcept in Germany.
COURTYARD / Father and daughter enjoy chill-out time. For similar Mexican hammock, try Mayan Legacy.
MAIN BEDROOM / High louvres encourage airflow in the bedrooms. Bedside table, Ikea. Bedlinen from Germany. Cushions, Busatti. Foliage, Mandalay Flowers. Pendant light, Muuto.
AUDREY'S ROOM / Fun colours and shapes spark a young imagination. Chair, Ikea. Mobile, Make Designed Objects.
Smart buy: Tastrup multicoloured low-pile rug, $59, Ikea.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

H&G

FEATURE PLANTS

INNER COURTYARD
Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*)
SIDE COURTYARD
Tree ferns (*Dicksonia*)
Yucca

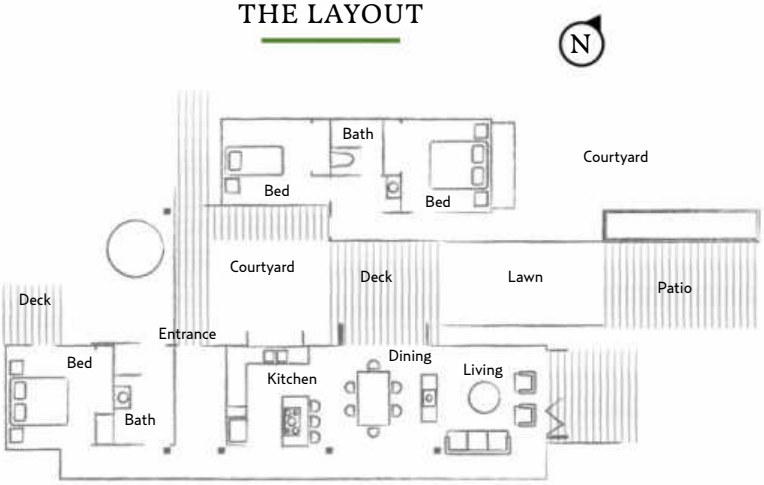




'This house has a lot of sustainable credentials, including double glazing, renewable timbers and blade walls that capture the sun, block the wind and provide shelter.' ***Anthony***



THE LAYOUT



Light TOUCH

The building was ideal, the location spot on. Now an interior designer has helped this Melbourne home tap into its inner beauty.

STORY **JUDY OSTERGAARD** / STYLING **TERRI SHANNON** / PHOTOGRAPHY **ARMELLE HABIB**



KITCHEN/DINING / This area's enviable indoor-outdoor connection was one of the home's biggest drawcards for Rebecca and Tonci Mardesic, pictured with son Roko. Pendant light, Space. Dining table and bench, Journey East. Bentwood chairs, Thonet. Stools, Luke Furniture. Pitti quartz-composite benchtops and splashback, Stone Italiana. Tapware, Astra Walker. Tasmanian oak flooring (throughout). FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



This is the life

Rebecca and Tonci Mardesic briefed interior designer Terri Shannon of Bloom Interior Design & Decoration to use animal- or cruelty-free materials wherever possible. "Rebecca and Tonci prefer organic and recycled materials as well as natural products such as linens and wools," says Terri. "We enjoyed researching and sourcing products in the textile and building industries that were produced in accordance with the Mardesics' ethos."





LIVING / "My favourite spot in the house is the settee near the fireplace, where I sit and read to Roko," says Tonci. Fireplace and wood box, Wignells of Melbourne. Cleo (grey) sofa and Iko side table, Jardan. Ottoman, Molmic. Floor lamp, Euroluce. Rug, Halcyon Lake Rugs and Carpets.
Designer buy: Ligne Roset Togo small settee in Shanghai fabric, from $4825, Domo.
COCKTAIL BAR / A cocktail bar, complete with wine fridge, is built into a nook between the kitchen and dining area for easy access when entertaining. Vintec wine fridge, E&S Trading. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



Owners Tonci and Rebecca Mardesic say that one of the main things that attracted them to this two-bedroom home in Melbourne's south-west was the open-plan kitchen/dining/living area and its connection – both visual and physical – to the lush back garden.

The sandstone Federation-style house was built in 2000 by the previous owner to replace a weatherboard cottage. When the Mardesics bought the house in 2012, it was decorated with a Balinese theme – dark timber cabinetry, purple feature walls and greyish-pink tiles in the bathrooms.

In 2013, having lived in the house for a year, Tonci and Rebecca decided it was time to make their mark on the property and asked Terri Shannon of Bloom Interior Design & Decoration to improve the layout and freshen up the interior. "We wanted the house to feel brighter and more natural," says Rebecca. "We loved the structure as it was but we thought we could make better use of some of the spaces."

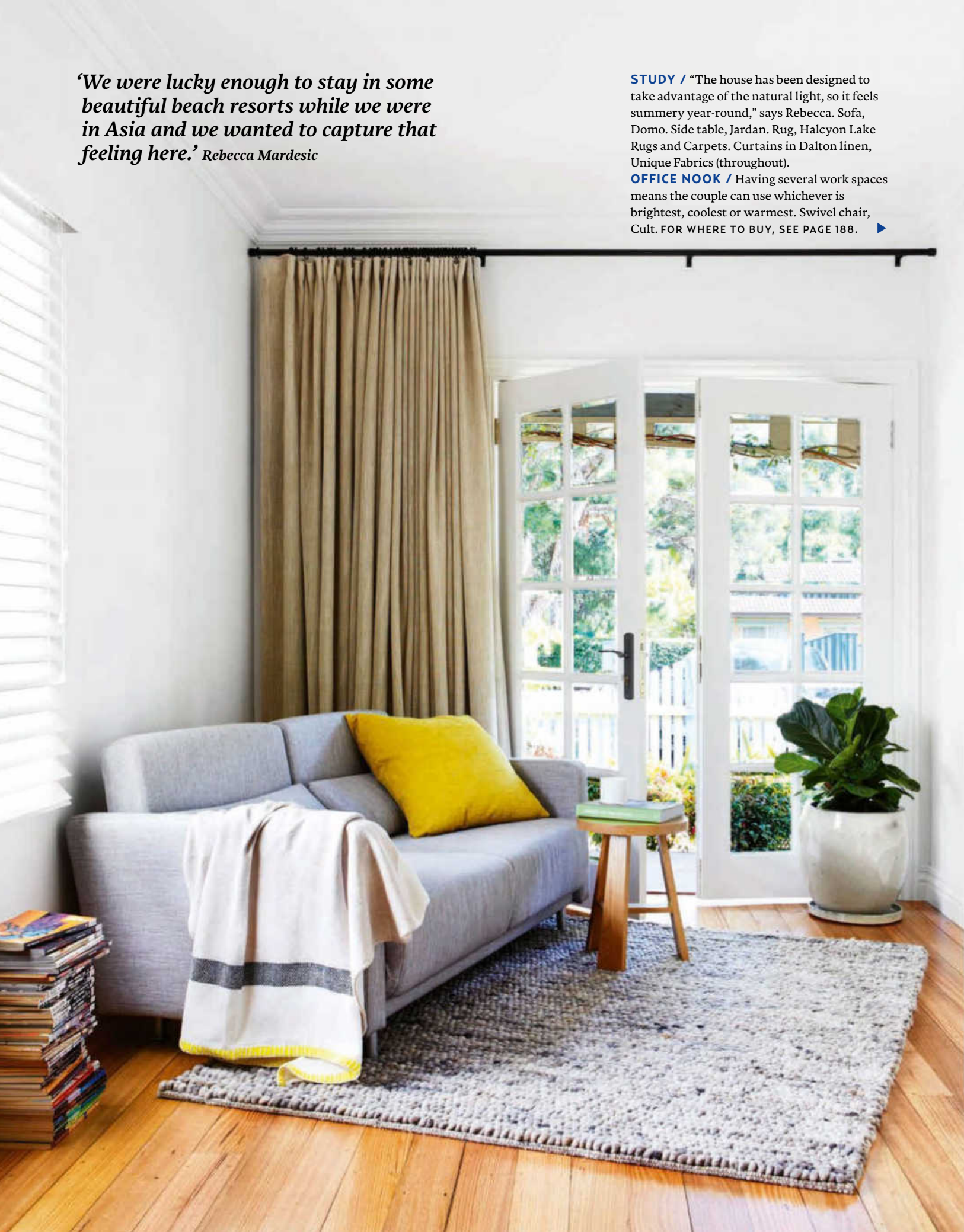
The front door opens to an L-shaped hall that leads past a study, their two-year-old son Roko's bedroom, the main bedroom and main bathroom before opening up to the bright and airy open-plan kitchen/dining/living area. Here, floor-to-ceiling glass doors give access to the garden, the centrepiece of which is a mature palm tree. "The palm tree is home to several families of rainbow lorikeets and is perfectly positioned to shade the backyard from afternoon sun," says Rebecca.

In the kitchen, extra storage was top of the wish list. "Previously, the benches were too low to be used comfortably and all the storage was beneath them so ▶

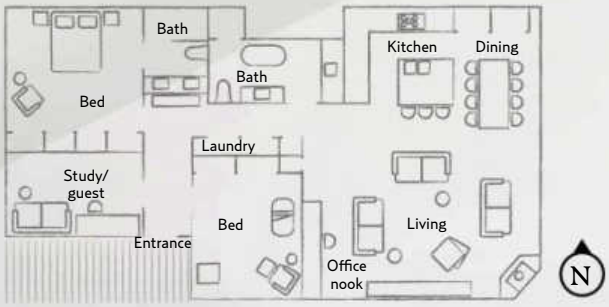
'We were lucky enough to stay in some beautiful beach resorts while we were in Asia and we wanted to capture that feeling here.' ***Rebecca Mardesic***

STUDY / "The house has been designed to take advantage of the natural light, so it feels summery year-round," says Rebecca. Sofa, Domo. Side table, Jardan. Rug, Halcyon Lake Rugs and Carpets. Curtains in Dalton linen, Unique Fabrics (throughout).

OFFICE NOOK / Having several work spaces means the couple can use whichever is brightest, coolest or warmest. Swivel chair, Cult. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



THE LAYOUT



THE PALETTE

Dulux Natural White
interior, throughout

Add a dash of

Haymes Paint Twin Flower

Taubmans Finale

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.







'Having so much storage is wonderful. The house feels clean and uncluttered – even with a toddler!' ***Rebecca***

MAIN BATHROOM / The same vertical joinery detailing is used throughout the home for visual harmony. Wall tiles, Lifestiles. Floor tiles, Signorino Tile Gallery. Pitti quartz-composite benchtop, Stone Italiana. Tapware, Astra Walker.

ROKO'S ROOM / A chocolate freckle-like rug from The Rug Establishment is a fun textural element in Roko's room. Cot, Baby Bunting. Charlecote wallpaper, Elliott Clarke. Custom-made pendant light, Bloomingdales Lighting. Print, Castle and Things. Floor lamp, Cult.
Smart buy: Sven armchair, $950, and footstool, $385, Meizai.

LAUNDRY / Concertina doors in the hallway conceal a small but perfectly formed laundry. Washing machine, LG. Baskets, Bloom & Co. Tapware, Astra Walker. Joinery, Werribee Joinery & Cabinet Works.

MAIN BEDROOM / Exbury Star wallpaper, Elliott Clarke. Bed, armchair and side table, all Jardan. Bedhead upholstered in Unique Fabrics Grange. Bedside table, Zuster. Wall light, Dunlin. Custom-made pendant light, Bloomingdales Lighting.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Summer retreat

Each room in the house is designed to reflect the home's idyllic location, a short walk to the beach and opposite the local botanical gardens. "There are lovely views wherever you sit and the ambience is so light and relaxing, like a beach resort," says Rebecca. She nominates her ensuite as a favourite retreat. "I just love my new walk-in shower with rain showerhead. It makes me feel like I'm on holiday and staying in a luxurious hotel."



◀ we added overhead cupboards and deeper benchtops to give us more prep and serving space," says Rebecca. "The island bench is now a feature of the room, rather than an element," says Terri.

The subtle driftwood and white colour scheme was chosen to create a light, beach-resort feel – a nod to the home's location as well as to the couple's time spent living in Asia. "We were fortunate enough to stay in some beautiful beach resorts while we were in Asia and we wanted to capture that feeling," says Rebecca.

The eye-catching Ligne Roset Togo settee, the star of the living zone, was acquired during their time in Singapore. "We immediately fell in love with it – the colours and pixel pattern on the fabric are so striking," says Rebecca. "Terri took the colours from the settee to incorporate as accents in the overall decor."

Renovation complete, the Mardesics couldn't be happier. "Before the makeover, the dark walls and fixtures made the house feel closed in, but now it feels so inviting and relaxing," says Rebecca. "We just love coming home." **H&G**

Bloom Interior Design & Decoration, Williamstown, Victoria; (03) 9397 4343 or bloominteriordesign.com.au.

Double delight

Where a one-up, one-down Sydney duplex once stood, a beautifully integrated home has taken shape.

STORY **CHRIS PEARSON** / STYLING **AMANDA MAHONEY** / PHOTOGRAPHY **PRUE RUSCOE**





LIVING / In keeping with the laidback aesthetic, the furniture in this family home is "easy, relaxed, a bit eclectic and in neutral colours", says architect Madeleine Blanchfield. Custom-made sofas. Vitra Prismatic side table (on left), Space. Wall light, Cult. The custom-made unit is in European oak from Briggs Veneers. Floor cushion, Orient House. *Black Beauty* photographic artwork by Nick Leary. **Smart buy:** Vintage Beni Ouarain wool rug, $2900/2.7x1.5m, Kulchi. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.





The owners of this home in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs have discovered that two goes into one, with amazing results. After searching for a four-bedroom house for a year, in 2011 Emma and Bruce found this 1930s brick building. It ticked many boxes, yet had one significant drawback; it was a duplex, with one two-bedroom apartment on top of another. One person had owned the property for 40 years, renting out the upper level and using the lower level as their pied-à-terre. That probably helped ensure the handsome heritage features, such as ceiling mouldings, architraves and leadlight windows, remained intact. "We liked the feel of the building," says Emma. "It had a good vibe and nice bones."

In 2013, they hired architect Madeleine Blanchfield with a brief to blend the two apartments and two eras into one, honouring the building's history while infusing it with contemporary style. It also had to be comfy for them and their daughters, Edie, now eight, and Mabel, six. "We wanted something relaxed and laidback, with generous open-plan living spaces, including a new extension open to the garden – and we wanted to keep as many of the original features as possible," says Emma.

The two floors were identical in layout, with two bedrooms at the front on either side of the entry (an external staircase served the top apartment), and a bathroom behind these, while the rear housed living rooms, dining areas and kitchens. The lower level also had an unwieldy extension with a sunroom and access to the garden via a laundry. ▶

'We tend to live in the kitchen and always dine at the dining table.' Emma

KITCHEN / Shields and bowls the couple bought in Africa are earthy elements in the restrained palette. Benchtop and splashback in Carrara marble from Milestone Building. Flos Aim pendant light, Euroluce.
Designer buy: Erik Buch bar stools, from $950/each, Great Dane.
STUDY / Original kauri floorboards on the lower level were retained, while recycled kauri replaced pine upstairs.
Smart buys: Klein/Gem low stool, from $360, and Rex/Lozenge high stool $430, Tuckbox.
DINING / Custom-made European-oak joinery is a lovely feature and provides plenty of storage at both ends of the room.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

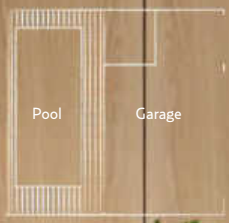
THE LAYOUT

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR





This is the life

The family spends most of their time in the informal living area added at the rear. "From the kitchen, we can see the whole back garden, which means we can keep an eye on the children in the pool." While stylish, the new extension is also practical. "It looks smart, but it's also child-friendly," says Madeleine, "with a concrete floor, no tricky edges, and with pared-back detailing. The timber veneer, too, is surprisingly tough."



THE PALETTE

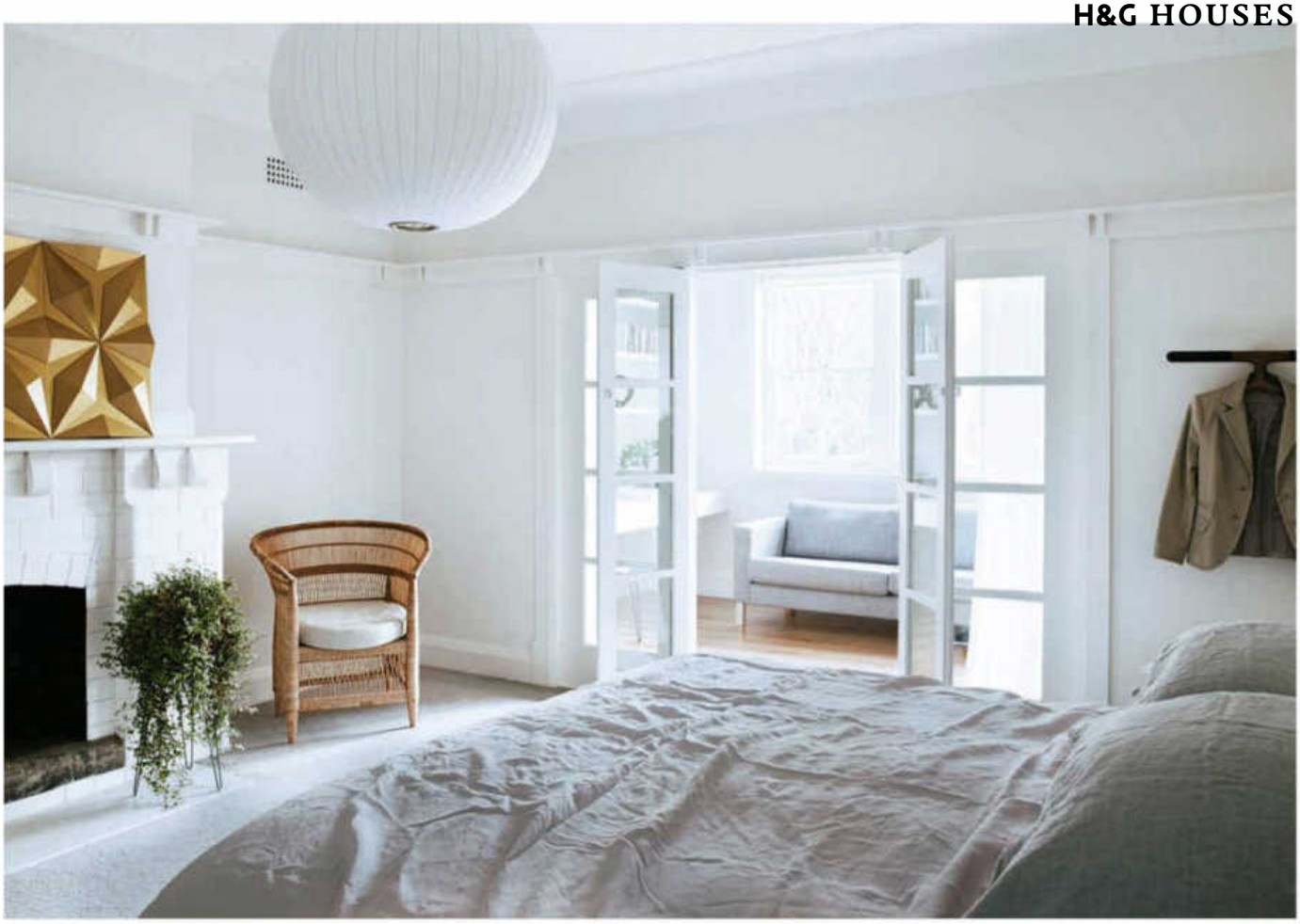
Dulux Natural White
interior walls, throughout

Dulux Vivid White
ceilings, throughout

Add a dash of

Taubmans Poison Ivy

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



The most striking change Madeleine made was shaving off the addition and replacing it with a light-soaked pavilion, embracing living and dining areas, with stacking doors along the western, garden side. Clerestory windows above the oak joinery make the ceiling appear to float. The polished-concrete floor connects to a concrete terrace that abuts the lawn, while the crisp extension has echoes of Le Corbusier. Across the lawn and past the pool, a new double garage is clad in western red cedar and has a real Palm Springs air.

The kitchen space links the new pavilion with the old building and combines period and modern elements – exposed, painted brickwork juxtaposed with streamlined custom joinery.

Madeleine inserted a staircase where once there were bathrooms, connecting the two floors – its exposed brickwork, serendipitously exposed when cracked render was removed, is offset by smooth timber treads and banisters housing LED lighting. "The skylight above looks like it landed from outer space, but I love it," says Emma. An oversized laundry occupies the space where the downstairs kitchen used to be.

Upstairs are three bedrooms, the main bedroom where the living room was, as well as sunroom, walk-in wardrobe and ensuite in the former kitchen and eating areas. "We love it all," says Emma. "It's easy to live and entertain in."

Madeleine Blanchfield Architects, Paddington, NSW; (02) 9212 3343 or madeleineblanchfieldarchitects.tumblr.com.

'The bedroom is a lovely big space, cool and relaxing.'
Emma

BEDROOM / With Escape Twist carpet in Swat, from Supertuft, and Bedouin Societe bedlinen from LivedIn Coogee, the main bedroom is both cool and calm. George Nelson Bubble light, Spence & Lyda. Vintage Brutalist wall panels, stylist's own. Plant holder, Mr Kitly. Malawi chair, Orient House. **Designer buy:** Jeeves coat rack, from $570, Living Edge.

BATHROOM / Athena encaustic tiles from Teranova set the scene. Icon mixer, Astra Walker. Hay strap mirror, Cult.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



Summer retreat

'Relaxed living' sums up this house, with the rear living room creating a seamless link between inside and out. "Guests can sit along the concrete step overlooking the garden and talk to us inside when we are entertaining – it all works perfectly," says Emma. The only impediment to blissful summer living is a tad too much sunlight – Emma is considering installing a curtain to filter the hot westerly sun.

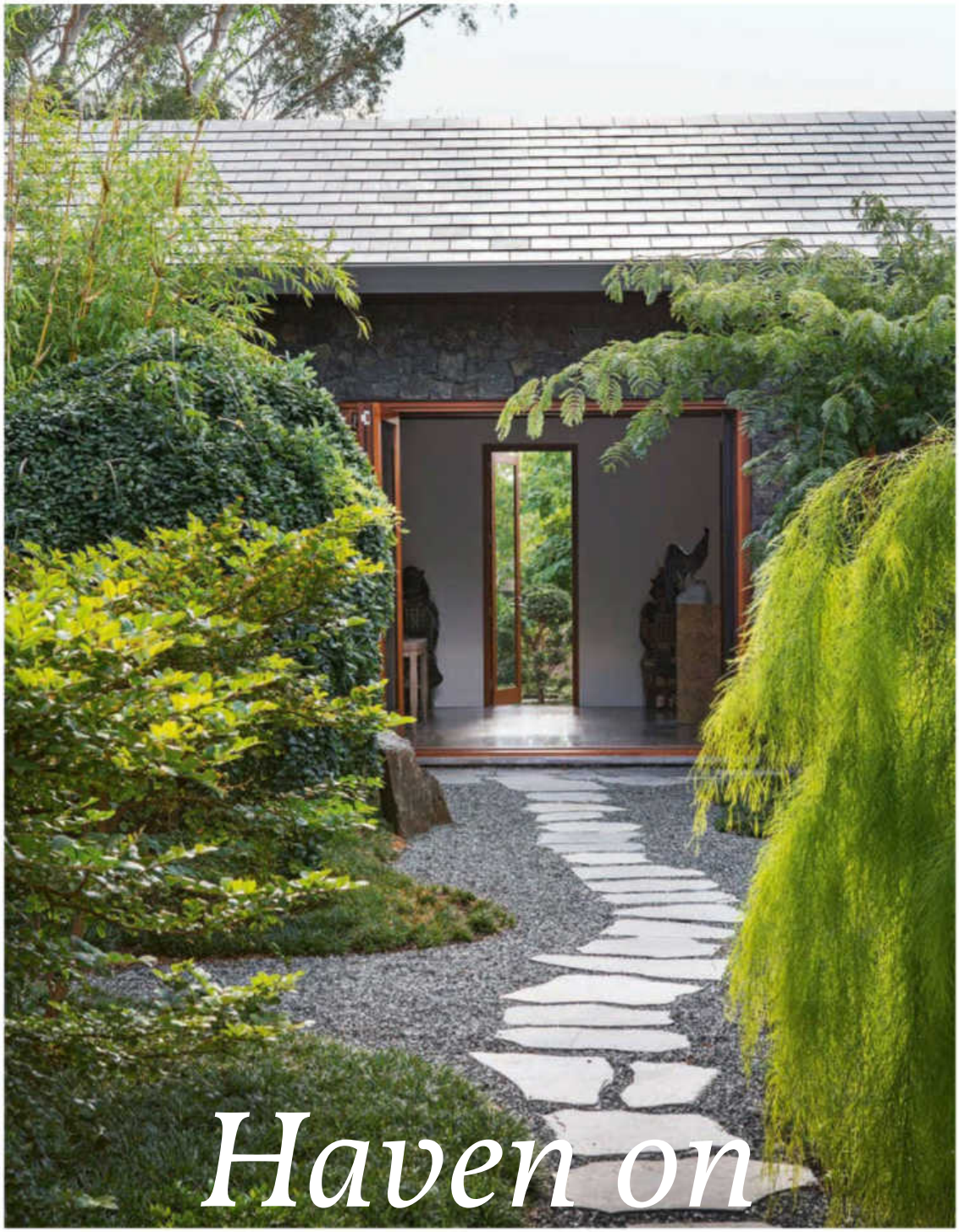




'My work is influenced by mid-century modern design. It uses ceilings and walls as much more than just structural elements.'

Madeleine Blanchfield, architect

TERRACE / A vintage chair was repainted and upholstered with Westbury Textiles linen and is positioned to enjoy a prime view of the pool. Log side table, MCM House. Stacking doors, AWS.
POOL / Western red cedar cladding wraps around the garage and provides a handy nook for poolside chairs. Armchairs and foot stools, Cotswold Furniture Collection. White plant pot, Garden Life. Black and white pot, Tait.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188. H&G



Haven on EARTH

Yearning for a quiet retirement, this WA couple built a beautiful Japanese-inspired home that delivers serenity in spades.

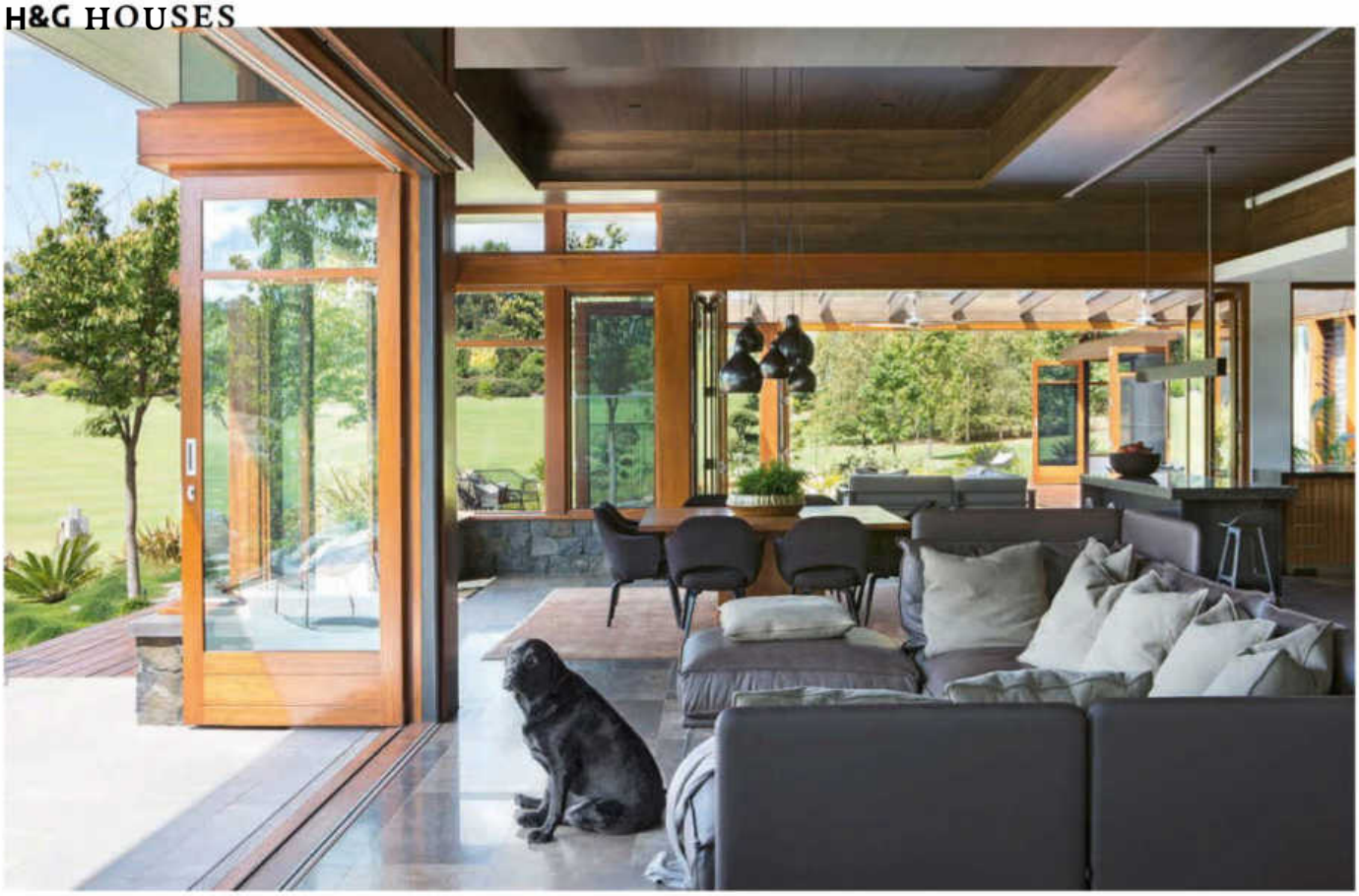
STORY & STYLING **ANNA FLANDERS** / PHOTOGRAPHY **ANGELITA BONETTI**

This is the life

Owners Terry and Tena now have all they need to enjoy their retirement. "The house has everything a modern home should have," says Tena. "It feels warm and inviting and everywhere you look is pleasing." Set on a 50ha block, there is plenty of room for the couple, their children and grandchildren to spend time together, either hanging out in the beautiful house, splashing in the pool or roaming the grounds.



LIVING / Terry settles into his favourite chair for a spot of reading. The Japanese ceramics form part of the couple's treasured collection. Armchairs, ottomans and coffee table, all Dedece. Rug, Jenny Jones Rugs. The wall is constructed from basalt.
GARDEN / Every part of this property, including this pathway from the pool to the gallery, is designed to encourage quiet contemplation. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



This cluster of wood, stone and rammed-earth pavilions, about an hour's drive south-east of Perth, is a sight for sore eyes. Home to Terry and Tena, it is designed to celebrate their love of Japanese design yet sit lightly in its West Australian bush surroundings. "We wanted a home that was tranquil, beautiful and spacious," says Tena. "Most of all, it had to be comfortable for us, our children and our grandchildren."

Enter architect Suzie Hunt, who harnessed the couple's ideas to create a two-bedroom home with separate, but connected, two-bedroom guest quarters. "'Sanctuary' was an important word, one that was always top of mind during the design process," she says. "Terry and Tena wanted a home that had a peaceful ambience, so it needed to feel like a private retreat. It also needed to be robust and grounded and to connect with nature. We were very lucky that Terry and Tena commissioned us to do both the architecture and interior design, as it was important to us that the interior reflect the strength of the external aesthetic."

Entry to the home is via a boardwalk that runs between a pond and a rammed-earth wall with circular cut-outs that frame views of the *karesansui* (dry landscape) garden beyond. Leading off the foyer are the main bedroom pavilion to the east; the living pavilion to the north; and the contemplation courtyard and pool (via a gallery) to the south.

Basalt, slate and rammed earth lend weight to the exterior; inside, there's wood and stone in warm, natural hues. Earth-toned travertine flooring runs throughout and rather than paint, select surfaces are clad in Victorian ash, in both vertical and horizontal lines, contributing ▶

'"Sanctuary" was an important word, one that was always top of mind during the design process.' ***Suzie Hunt, architect***

LIVING/DINING / Bonnie the labrador relaxes in the cool of the living room. The ceiling features Victorian ash. Rug, Jenny Jones Rugs. Custom-made dining table. Dining chairs, Dedece. Sofa, Poliform. Travertine flooring, Bernini Stone & Tile (throughout). Joinery and bifolds by Abbott'solutely Timber (throughout). **Smart buy:** Godfrey pendant lights, $170/each (small) and $225/each (medium), Lightly.
KITCHEN / "The house is so efficient and comfortable to live in," says Tena. Benchtops in honed Marron Serrat granite, Bernini. Island bench facing in Eveneer Evenraven, Elton Group. Stools, Great Dane. Cabinetry in Queensland walnut veneer, Laminex. Fruit bowl, Accento. Jug, Georg Jensen.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.


THE PALETTE
Dulux Rottnest Island
bedroom walls
Dulux Ceiling White
ceiling bulkheads
Victorian ash
panelling

Summer retreat

Every day feels like a holiday in this house, especially in summer when the days are long and sunny. Despite the WA heat, there is little need for artificial cooling – Terry and Tena simply open up all the bifolds to let the house breathe. Energy-efficient glass is used throughout, the stone flooring has good thermal mass and, since breezes blow across ponds before entering the house, the air is always lovely and cool.



BEDROOM / The sliding shoji screen door is a moveable artwork. Bed, Contempo. Bedlinen, Pure Linen. Bedspread, Empire Highgate. Pendant lights, Hub Furniture Lighting Living. Rug, Jenny Jones Rugs. Custom-made chaise. Sunergy energy-efficient glass, Westec Windows & Doors (throughout). Merbau decking.
ENSUITE / The luxurious ensuite has direct access to the pool so there's no need to traipse through the house in wet cossies. Bath, Apaiser. Travertine wall and floor tiles, Bernini Stone & Tiles. Tapware, Reece. Towels, Ricarda Fashion Objects.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.





◀ to the overall texture and warmth. "In Japanese design, it's the use of honest materials such as timber and stone that create depth and that renowned sense of calm," says Suzie. "Using the same sort of robust materials inside and out blurs the boundaries between the two and as a result, the home feels very serene."

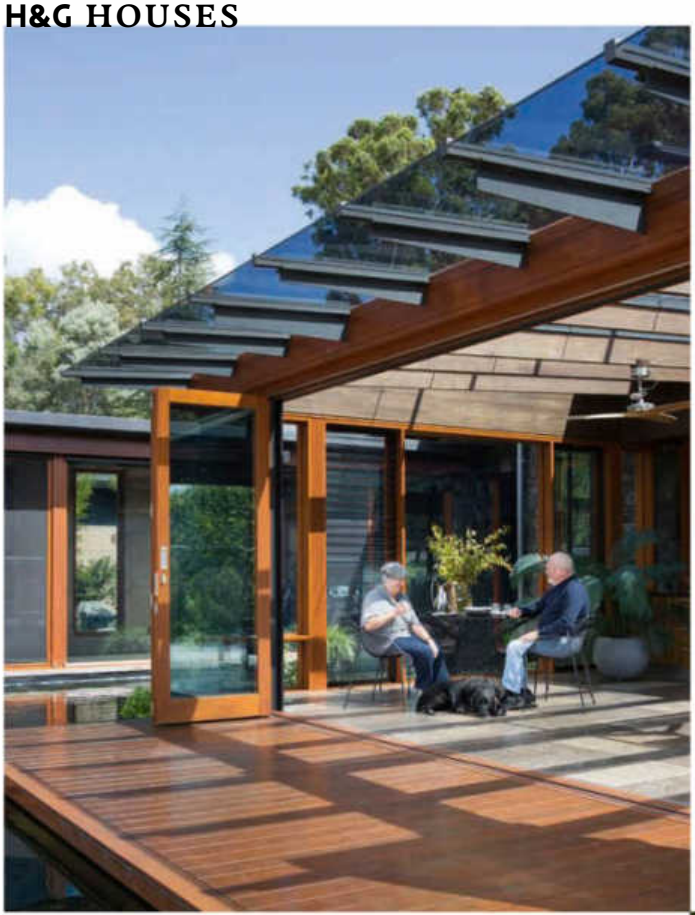
The open-plan living/dining room and conservatory, respectively located in the northern and eastern corners of the main pavilion, are glazed on all sides, affording panoramic views of the extensive Japanese-style garden, a masterpiece that this pair of passionate gardeners designed themselves. Decking wraps around these rooms, extending east and west to link this main pavilion with the guest and bedroom pavilions.

The main bedroom is a beautiful expression of Terry and Tena's desire to be connected to nature. With ponds on two sides, the room appears to float, the effect enhanced by unobstructed views.

The property certainly fulfills Terry and Tena's brief for tranquillity. And having won 11 architecture, interior design and building awards in the past 12 months, including the Master Builders Association's Most Liveable Home for 2015, it's clear that it's not only the owners who are smitten.

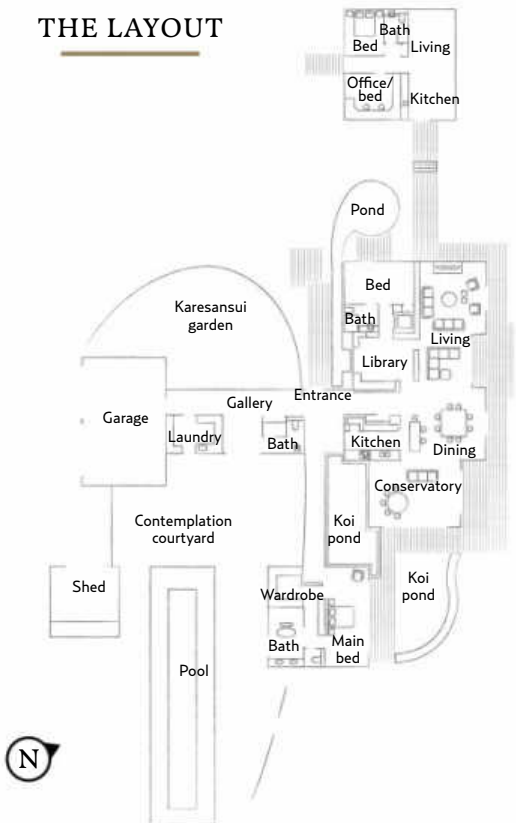
"Our home is truly wonderful to live in," says Tena. "It's hard to say which part I love the most. One day I think we have the most beautiful entrance; another day I walk through our bedroom and ensuite and decide that is my dream. There is no part that isn't special." ▶

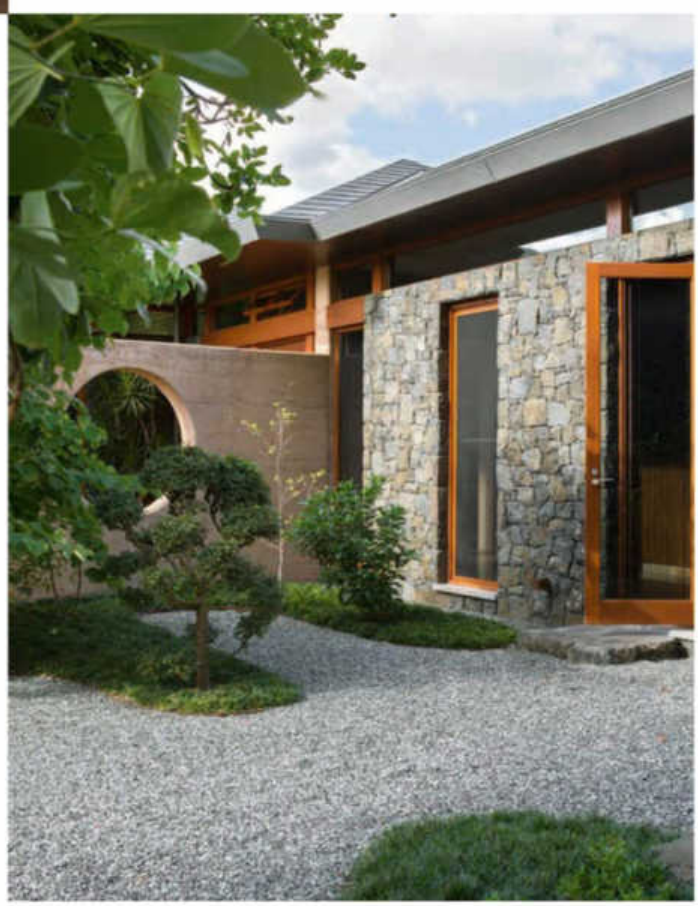
Architecture/interiors: Suzanne Hunt Architect, Subiaco, WA; (08) 6113 3954 or www.suzannehuntarchitect.com.au. Builder: Gransden Construction, Nedlands, WA; (08) 9389 1350 or gransden.com.au.





THE LAYOUT


Bath
Bed
Living
Office/
bed
Kitchen
Pond
Bed
Karesansui
garden
Bath
Living
Library
Entrance
Gallery
Garage
Laundry
Bath
Kitchen
Dining
Conservatory
Contemplation
courtyard
Koi
pond
Shed
Wardrobe
Koi
pond
Bath
Main
bed
Pool
N





GARDEN / this page and opposite top right The 50ha block affords Tena and Terry plenty of room to indulge their passion for gardening. A now-retired landscaper friend helped them bring their ideas to life, a project that took five years.
CONSERVATORY / The north-east facing conservatory is perfectly positioned for leisurely breakfasts. Warema remote-controlled conservatory awning, Baywest Blinds & Shutters. Heaven dining table and armchairs, Ke-zu.
KARESANSUI GARDEN / The *karesansui* garden is inspired by Zen gardens the couple had seen in Japan. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

H&G

FEATURE PLANTS

Casuarina glauca 'Cousin It'
Sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*)
Gardenia
Ornamental pear
Crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*)
Bamboo
Weeping pagoda tree (*Saphora japonicum pendula*)



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Journey through an inspiring, lushly planted garden

Alexander palms lean in, and a camphor laurel creates a canopy over the path that runs through the centre of Claudia Nevell's rainforest-inspired garden in northern NSW. To see more, turn the page...

Photograph by Scott Hawkins.

GARDENS

A TROPICAL PARADISE / GREEN THUMB / CLIPPINGS



RAINFOREST RAPTURE

Working with a large sloping site, landscape designer Claudia Nevell shaped a many-layered tropical wonderland at her home on the NSW North Coast.

STORY **ELIZABETH WILSON** / PHOTOGRAPHY **SCOTT HAWKINS**



The neat lawn at the centre of the garden is shaded by a sculptural camphor laurel underplanted with shade-loving tropical plants including Brazilian red cloak (*Megaskepasma erythrochlamys*), *Cycas thouarsii* and *Microsorum grossum*.



Alexander palms and cordylines reach toward the canopy. Below, *Trachelospermum jasminoides* 'Tricolor', one of the hardiest groundcover plants, spills from its raised bed. **OPPOSITE LEFT /** Claudia and her faithful Rhodesian ridgeback, Bongo. **OPPOSITE RIGHT /** A courtyard at the rear of the home is planted with frangipani, heliconias, bromeliads and agave.





Landscape designer Claudia Nevell's garden is a bit like Mary Poppins' magical carpet bag. From the outside, it looks intriguing enough, but when you step inside it takes on another dimension entirely, revealing itself as a wondrous place of unexpected scale and unfolding vistas.

Towering palms and vast thickets of tropical plants stretch out in every direction, giving the impression that the garden occupies a luxurious tract of natural rainforest. In fact, it's located in the suburbs of Coffs Harbour, a coastal city in subtropical northern NSW about six hours' drive from Sydney.

The garden extends over three large blocks, 2500m² in total, bought by Claudia and her husband Peter 20 years ago. She installed a few new plants back then but it wasn't until 2001, when the couple built their current home, that Claudia "got serious" about the garden.

The site was on a continual slope that dropped 12m in height over a length of 60m, with a few existing trees including an old camphor laurel, three large frangipani and a jacaranda. The first project was to create three lawn terraces, connected by gravel paths and stone steps.

In addition to creating level areas, the terracing helps manage heavy downpours, a critical consideration in this climate where the average annual rainfall is 1700mm. "Surface drainage is paramount, and the terraces are vital in capturing and slowing the water flow," says Claudia, who built a frog pond on the lower level to capture run-off.

To bridge the levels, Claudia designed banks rather than walls. "It's a luxury, but I can do it because I have the space," she says. These banks are thickly covered with plants, producing continual gentle contours rather than abrupt rises or falls.

Next, Claudia focused on "important vertical elements", planting natives such as Alexander palms (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*) and groves of cabbage-tree palms (*Livistona australis*).

ESCAPE TO EDEN

Explore more glorious gardens in **H&G's Great Australian Gardens** *($59.99, Bauer Media Books). Available at bookstores and online at www.magshop.com.au.*







◀ The top two levels are densely planted and they're lush and enclosed. The lower level is more open, so it receives full sun. "This means the garden contains different microclimates, which makes it feel bigger and adds more interest," says Claudia.

She has used mainly tropical foliage plants, including rainforest species, but there are also subtropical natives such as lilly pilly (*Syzygium* sp) and lemon myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*) as well as dry garden natives such as *Baeckea virgata* 'Mount Tozer' in the lower level. Recurring feature plants include the luxurious red bromeliad (*Alcantarea imperialis* 'Rubra'); spear lily (*Doryanthes palmeri*), with its spectacular sword-like leaves; and cardboard palm (*Zamia furfuracea*).

Surprisingly, another plant used extensively is clipped Japanese box (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*), a plant usually associated with formal gardens in temperate climates. It's a star performer in this tropical setting, formed into rectangles and spheres, used to corral swathes of strappy native grasses. "I like to mix it up," says Claudia. "The strong shape of the box helps to give structure to the loose shapes of the tropical plants and grasses."

Working with a palette of green, grey and purple foliage, Claudia has created lots of canopy layers. The top layer is defined by the 15m-high camphor laurel. Next level down are the palms. The medium storey is made up of tropical plants such as cordylines, tree aloes and the lime-green discs of the Australian fan palm (*Licuala ramsayi*), while the lower layer consists of bromeliads, native grasses and groundcovers such as star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides* 'Tricolor').

"I think of the garden as a painting," she says. "I used to paint on a canvas, but now I just paint in the garden. And just like painting, it's all about building up the layers." **H&G**

Garden Expressions, Coffs Harbour, NSW; 0409 513 305 or www.gardenexpressions.com.au.

ABOVE LEFT / Pots filled with cacti and succulents are dotted throughout the garden. A mass planting of *Agave attenuata* cascades like a waterfall down the sloping site.

ABOVE RIGHT / The courtyard's water feature is filled with *Thalia geniculata*, which is popular with local frogs.





Claudia's tropical treasure trove




CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT / *Cordyline fruticosa* 'Rubra'. *Vireya rhodondendron.* Eggplant growing in the vegie garden. Claudia's chickens roam in their straw yard. *Heliconia rostrate.* The lower garden, near the frog pond, is planted with *Lomandra shara*, *Baeckea* 'Mount Tozer' and *Buxus*. *Alcantarea* 'Silver Plum'. An antique Balinese water pot is in keeping with the tropical feel of the garden.







GREEN THUMB

ANGUS STEWART

This native plant aficionado and horticulturist has spent a lifetime studying and celebrating our native beauties.

When did your love of Australian plants take hold? As a child, when I would watch my grandmother painting wildflowers. She was a great naturalist who published a book of her artwork called *In Harmony with Nature* and she went by the unlikely name of Daisy Wood. She inspired me to look closely at these plants from a young age.

Has there been a shift in attitude towards Australian natives? Yes, gardeners now incorporate natives such as grevilleas and bottlebrush as a matter of course, whereas 40 years ago that wasn't happening. Virtually every gardener now knows native plant cultivars such as *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon'.

What do you attribute this to? We're now much more comfortable with, and want to celebrate, the unique features of the Australian bush in our landscapes.

What does your ideal Australian garden look like? It would have a naturalistic use of plants, water and other landscape elements. Phillip Johnson's Best in Show–winning garden at the 2013 Chelsea Flower Show is a prime example.

What's your favourite native? Kangaroo paw. It comes in every colour except blue, attracts many nectar-feeding birds and provides amazing texture and colour in the garden. There are tall, long-lived varieties as well as smaller, spectacular flowering varieties that are best treated as short-lived perennials.

And stand-out new plant? *Westringia* 'Deep Purple'. This new variety of one of our most versatile native plants has gorgeous, dark-mauve flowers all year round, adapts well to a wide range of soils and climates and can be used as a hedge, informal screen or feature plant.

Your favourite foliage plant? *Callistemon* 'Great Balls of Fire' is an outstanding hedging plant with vibrantly coloured new foliage that will thrive in a wide range of climates and soil types.

What is your advice for someone wanting to start a native garden? Don't impulse buy. Research the soil and climatic requirements of the plants you like the look of before you invest to make sure they are suitable for your environment.

Always take time to smell the....? Lemon-scented gum after a storm. **H&G**

The Australian Native Garden **($49.99, Murdoch Books) by Angus Stewart and A.B. Bishop is in bookstores now.**

Produced by Elizabeth Wilson. Photography by Brigid Arnott, David Dixon/Getty Images (native frangipani), Alamy (grevillea), Sue Ferris/bauersyndication.com.au (trowel).

ANGUS' FAVOURITE...



Scented native Native frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*).



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Gardening tool The trowel. Digging a hole for a new plant is so satisfying.

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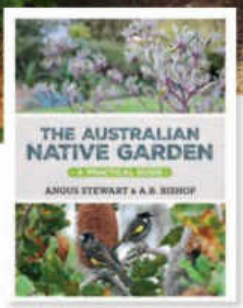
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clippings





GROWING NATIVE PLANTS IS A SURE WAY TO ATTRACT BIRDS AND ENHANCE THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE OF YOUR GARDEN. FOR A DEFINITIVE GUIDE, CHECK OUT *THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVE GARDEN* ($49.99, MURDOCH BOOKS), A NEW TITLE BY ANGUS STEWART AND A.B. BISHOP.

Slim pickings

If you need a hand to contain summer growth, Fiskar's Telescopic tree pruner, $199, extends from 2.4m to 4m, providing plenty of reach while you keep both feet on the ground. www.fiskars.com.



MAKE IT SNIPPY

Secateurs are an essential part of any gardener's toolbox and this handsome pair with red-hued wood handles, $45, is as stylish as they come. Heaven in Earth; (02) 4423 2041 or www.heaveninearth.com.au.



SCREEN STAR

Lump Sculpture Studio's new screen planter designs, priced from $880, work as space dividers and planters. Made from laser-cut metal, they've been specifically designed for small outdoor spaces and balconies, and can be customised to incorporate seating. Lump Sculpture Studio; (03) 9489 4766 or www.lump.com.au.

3 OF A KIND... NEW SEEDS



The passionate spruikers of home-grown produce at The Little Veggie Patch Co have released a Perennial Herb pack featuring eight culinary favourites, $30/pack. www.littleveggiepatchco.com.au.



Cute as the proverbial, billy buttons are easy-to-grow natives that bear sweet yellow pompoms. Start with the seeds in Sow 'n Sow's illustrated packet, $9. www.sownsow.com.au.



BEST BUY $6

Create a buzz with The Diggers Club Wildflowers for Bees mix, $6. It will cover 2.5m² and produce swathes of blooms to attract and support threatened bee populations. www.diggers.com.au.

Produced by Elizabeth Wilson.



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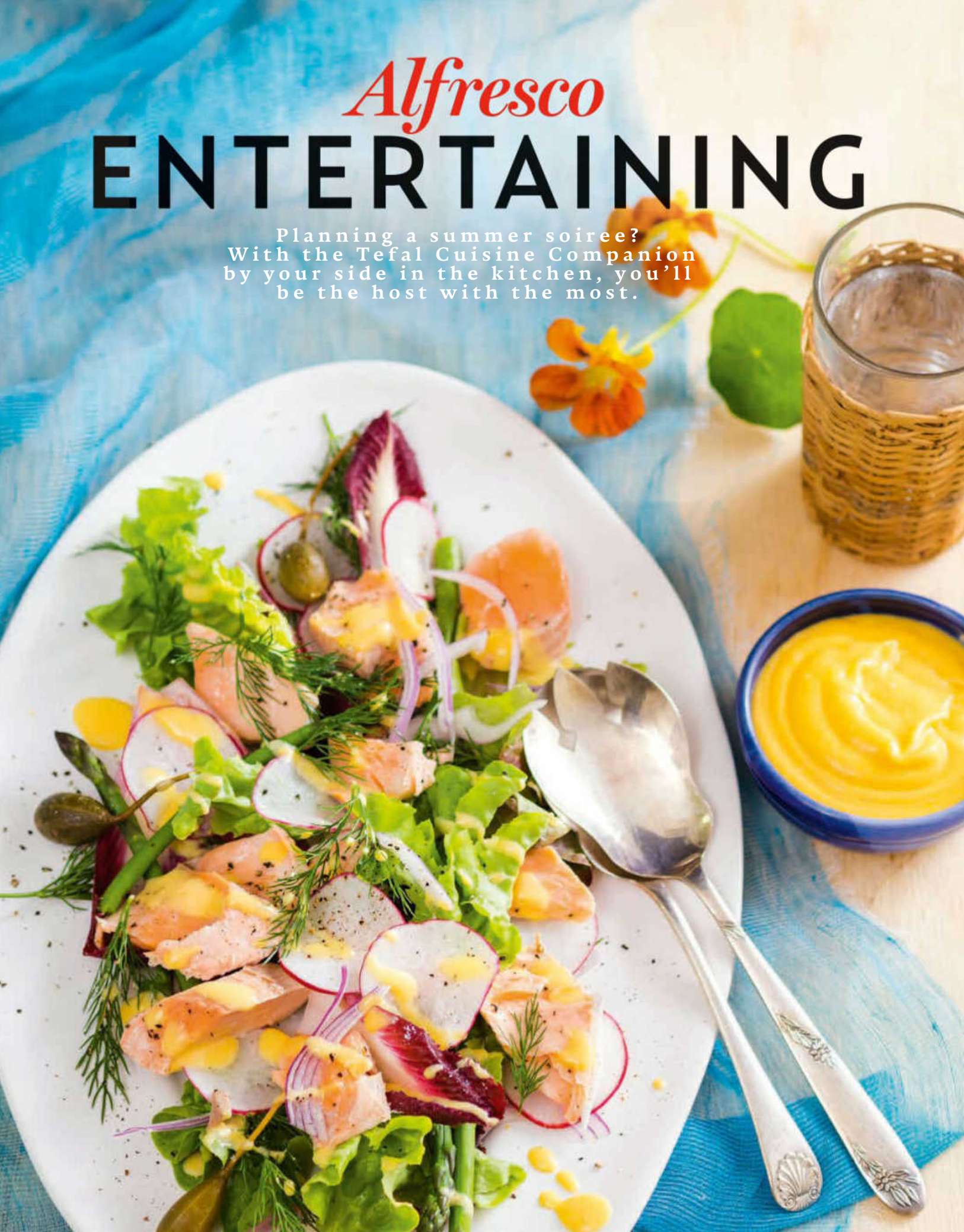
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Alfresco ENTERTAINING

Planning a summer soiree? With the Tefal Cuisine Companion by your side in the kitchen, you'll be the host with the most.





Entrée

Delightfully decadent

Brandied duck liver pâté

Prep: 20mins. Cooking: 15mins. Serves 6.

60g butter, plus 50g extra, melted
300g duck livers, trimmed
100g button mushrooms, sliced
⅓ cup (80ml) brandy
2 green onions, finely chopped
1 clove garlic, crushed
125g cream cheese, chopped, softened
2 tsp chopped chervil, plus a few chervil leaves extra, for garnish
Melba toasts, cornichons and pickled red onion, to serve

1 Place butter, livers, mushrooms, brandy, onion and garlic in Cuisine Companion bowl fitted with mixer attachment. Launch P1 Slow Cook program for 12mins. Remove and set aside. Rinse bowl in cold water.
2 Replace mixer attachment with Ultrablade. Return liver mixture to bowl; add cream cheese, chervil and seasonings. Mix at speed 12 for 30secs. Using a spatula, scrape down sides, bringing mixture to the middle then mix a further 20secs to form a smooth pâté.
3 Decant mixture to a small serving dish. Chill, covered, at least 2hrs. Serve with melba toasts (see tip), pickled red onion (see tip) and cornichons.

TIP *We made our melba toasts by cutting the crusts from white bread and rolling with a rolling pin until very thin. Cut each slice in half or quarters, then bake on a baking tray in a moderate oven (180°C) for 5-10mins until lightly browned. To make pickled red onion, slice 1 red onion thinly, sprinkle with 1 tbsp each sugar, salt and pepper and drizzle with white wine vinegar. Stand for at least 1hr before serving.*



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The Tefal Cuisine Companion is made in France and comes with a 2-year warranty. $1699

Tefal
Cuisine companion

Main

Light and easy

Steamed salmon salad with béarnaise

Prep: 20mins. Cooking: 15mins. Serves 4.

4x 125g skinless salmon fillets, pin bones removed
100g mixed salad leaves, such as witlof, mignonette, butter lettuce
1 bunch radish, thinly sliced
1 bunch asparagus, trimmed, blanched
1½ cup dill sprigs
Caperberries to serve
BÉARNAISE
150g butter, cubed
4 egg yolks
¼ cup (60ml) white wine or lemon juice
¼ cup (60ml) white wine vinegar
1 tbsp chopped tarragon (optional)

1 Trim salmon and season. Set aside, covered.
2 Fill Cuisine Companion bowl with water up to the 0.7L mark. Place half the salmon into the steam basket, then place steam basket into bowl and launch Steam Program for 8mins. Set aside, covered. Repeat with remaining salmon. Set aside.
3 To make béarnaise, place butter, yolks, wine, vinegar and seasonings in the Cuisine Companion bowl fitted with whisk attachment. Launch Sauce Program at speed 6 at 70°C for 8mins. Fold tarragon through, if liked.
4 Arrange leaves, radish, asparagus, dill sprigs, caperberries on a serving platter. Scatter with flaked salmon. Drizzle with béarnaise and season to taste to serve.

TIP *If your béarnaise sauce becomes too thick, thin it with a little hot water or lemon juice.*



DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO COOK WITH CONFIDENCE THIS SUMMER WITH THE TEFAL CUISINE COMPANION.

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O&VREGIFTBHG



A delightful cocktail menu to ring in the New Year

LIVING

ENTERTAINING / DRINKS / AT MY TABLE / TRAVEL / HEALTH / BEAUTY

Styling by Vanessa Holden. Photograph by Con Poulos. Artworks by Petrina Tinslay.

ENTERTAINING

COCKTAIL HOUR

Gather your nearest and dearest together and celebrate the dawning of the New Year with substantial nibbles and moreish cocktails.

RECIPES **SIMON ANDREWS, EMMA KNOWLES & LISA FEATHERBY**
STYLING **VANESSA HOLDEN** / PHOTOGRAPHY **CON POULOS**



Stylist Vanessa Holden (right) and her daughter Yasmin put the finishing touches on the table at their New York home (more on page 16). Framed photographs by Petrina Tinslay. **OPPOSITE /** Grape foccacia, cheese and Campari cocktails – a match made in heaven.



SAY CHEESE!

When selecting cheeses to serve at a party, look for a variety of tastes and textures. A combination of hard or aged cheeses such as cheddar or manchego, a moulded cheese, such as Stilton, a washed-rind variety and a soft white cheese such as a triple-cream brie work really well as there's something to cater to every taste.



OPPOSITE TOP / Vanessa's husband Simon Andrews and their son Harper relax in the kitchen.

NEGRONI

Makes 1

Pour **30ml gin, 30ml Campari** and **30ml rosso vermouth** (such as punt e mes or cocchi vermouth di torino), into a tumbler filled with ice. Stir for 20 seconds, add a **twist of orange zest** and serve.

CAMPARI & SODA

Makes 1

Place **60ml Campari** and **chilled soda water to taste** in a highball or Collins glass (the ratio is generally 2:1 Campari to soda) filled with ice. Garnish with **1 slice of orange** and serve.

CAMPARI SPRITZ

Makes 1

Pour **30ml Campari** into a wineglass over a few ice cubes. Top with **60-90ml chilled prosecco** and **a dash of soda,** if you like. Stir, garnish with **1 slice of orange** and serve.

'It's true that people love to cook together as much as they like to eat and drink together so we like to make that happen.' Vanessa

Grape focaccia

Prep: 30 mins + standing + proving. Cooking: 25 mins. Serves 8-10.

1 sachet (about 7g) dry yeast
1 tbsp honey
5 cups (750g) plain flour, plus extra for kneading
1 tbsp sea salt, plus extra for topping
1 cup (250ml) olive oil
250g seedless black grapes, cut in half
2 tbsp white sugar
3-4 sprigs rosemary, leaves stripped

1 / Place 1¾ cups (430ml) lukewarm water in a bowl; add yeast and honey, stir to combine and stand in a warmish place for 15mins or until bubbling.
2 / Combine flour, salt, half the olive oil and yeast mixture in a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook; mix on low speed until dough just comes together, about 2mins. Increase speed to medium and knead a further 5mins or until dough is soft and smooth. If dough remains sticky, mix in extra flour, a little at a time, until smooth. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead by hand for a few turns, then place in a lightly oiled bowl, cover with plastic wrap and stand for 1hr or until doubled in size.
3 / Coat a large baking sheet with ¼ cup (60ml) olive oil. Turn dough onto a lightly floured work surface and gently stretch to form a large round about 1cm thick. Place on tray, use your fingers to dimple the surface, cover with a damp cloth and stand for about 1hr or until doubled in size.
4 / Meanwhile, preheat oven to 240°C (220°C fan). Combine grapes, sugar and rosemary in a bowl with 2 tbsp olive oil; scatter over dough. Drizzle with remaining oil and sprinkle with extra salt, then bake for 25mins until golden brown and grapes are hot. Cool slightly and serve.



Taleggio arancini

Prep: 40 mins + chilling. Cooking: 1 hr 20 mins. Serves 8-10.

3 cups (750ml) chicken stock
2½ tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
50g mild pancetta, finely diced
1 onion, finely chopped
4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 cup (200g) carnaroli risotto rice
½ cup (125ml) dry white wine
50g finely grated parmesan
150g taleggio, rind trimmed
12 pitted green olives, coarsely chopped (optional)
⅓ cup (50g) plain flour
2 eggs, lightly beaten
2 cups (140g) fresh breadcrumbs
Vegetable oil, for deep frying
Fresh tomato sauce, to serve

1 / Bring stock to a simmer over medium heat. Meanwhile, heat extra-virgin olive oil in a large saucepan over low heat, add pancetta, onion and garlic, cook for 8mins or until onions are translucent. Add rice; stir for 1min to coat grains. Deglaze pan with wine, then add hot stock, 1 ladleful at a time, stirring occasionally and ensuring stock is absorbed before adding more. Repeat until stock is absorbed, rice is creamy and cooked al dente, about 35mins. Stir through parmesan and season to taste, then spread on a tray to cool. Refrigerate for 2hrs.
2 / Divide risotto into 12 balls. Flatten, then place a thumbnail-sized piece of taleggio and a little chopped olive in the centre of each.
3 / Heat vegetable oil to 170°C in a deep fryer or a large, deep saucepan. Place flour, eggs and breadcrumbs in separate bowls. Roll balls in flour, dip in egg, coat in breadcrumbs and deep-fry in batches for 4mins or until golden; drain on paper towel. Serve with warm tomato sauce.
TIP Use a shop-bought tomato sauce or make a quick homemade one by blending peeled chopped tomatoes with a little garlic and olive oil. ▶





Pear, pecorino & crisp leaf salad

Prep: 10 mins. Serves 8-10 as a side.

2 pears, thinly sliced widthways
2 small radicchio, leaves separated
1 frisée lettuce, leaves separated
3 white witlof, leaves separated
80g parmesan, shaved

Sherry vinaigrette

1 tbsp (20ml) sherry vinegar
¼ cup (60ml) extra-virgin olive oil

1 / To make vinaigrette, place vinegar and oil in a small bowl and whisk to emulsify. Season to taste with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper.
2 / Place pear, salad leaves and parmesan in a bowl. Drizzle with dressing and toss to combine. Serve immediately.

Berry pavlova

Prep: 40 mins + cooling. Cooking: 1 hr 15 mins. Serves: 8-10.

500g mixed blackberries and blueberries (favouring blackberries)
⅓ cup caster sugar
1-2 tbsp tawny port (optional)
600ml thickened cream

Pavlova

10 eggwhites
2½ cups (550g) caster sugar
1 tsp pure vanilla extract
2 tsp white vinegar
1½ tbsp cornflour

1 / To make pavlova, preheat oven to 140°C (120°C fan) and arrange three racks evenly in the oven. Line three baking sheets with paper, and draw an 18cm circle on each piece (use a side plate or cake tin as a template). Turn the paper pencil-side down.
2 / Place eggwhites in a clean metal or glass bowl and whisk with an electric mixer on medium speed for 5mins or until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar, 1 tbsp at a time, whisking continuously on high speed for 5mins or until meringue holds stiff, shiny peaks and feels smooth, not gritty. Whisk in vanilla extract, then sprinkle vinegar and cornflour over; use a silicone spatula to gently fold through. Spread ⅓ meringue mixture inside each circle, making sure edges are slightly higher than the centre. Bake for 1hr 10mins or until outside of meringues is dry and very pale cream in colour, swapping trays part-way through cooking if necessary to ensure even cooking. Turn off oven and cool completely in oven.
3 / Combine one-quarter of the fruit, half the sugar, port (if using) and 2 tbsp water in a small saucepan and simmer over medium-high heat for about 5mins until fruit bursts and mixture thickens. Mash fruit with a fork and strain mixture through a sieve to collect as much juice as possible. Discard solids and refrigerate to cool. Toss remaining fruit with remaining sugar and stand while you whip the cream.
4 / Whisk cream until firm peaks form, then fold in cooled berry liquid to form a ripple.
5 / To assemble, layer meringue, whipped cream and berries to create a three-layer dessert, finishing with a tumble of berries. Serve immediately.

H&G



An assortment of fine chocolate is a sweet touch.



'Simon loves to cook and I love to get people together so we entertain at home fairly frequently – spontaneously, fairly casually and usually family-style.' Vanessa



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DRINKS

BERRY GO ROUND



Gamay, the grape behind the classic wines of Beaujolais as well as fine local examples, is enjoying a revival in Australia, writes **Toni Paterson.**

Gamay, or more correctly *gamay noir à jus blanc,* is a French grape variety that produces light, vibrant red wines, often with a purple hue when young. Wines made from gamay have bright, delicious acidity and low-to-moderate tannin, allowing for early consumption. The lightest styles even benefit from a little chilling on a hot day.

While the variety may be unfamiliar, the region it originates from is well known. Beaujolais, south of Burgundy in France, is gamay's heartland: almost the entire region is planted with it. The region produces light- to medium-bodied red table wine, as well as an early-release style known as Beaujolais Nouveau, designed to be consumed in the same season it's made. The latter is intensely bright, with perfumed berry fruits, and immensely drinkable.

Entry-level Beaujolais and most Beaujolais Nouveau come from the official Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée area of Beaujolais, comprising about 70 villages. Next up the ladder in quality is the appellation Beaujolais-Villages, produced in fewer than 40 villages. The most highly regarded wines come from just 10 villages. These appellations are known as the 'crus' of Beaujolais: Juliénas, Chénas, Fleurie, Saint-Amour, Chiroubles, Moulin-à-Vent, Morgon, Régnié, Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly. Wines from these crus are at their best within two to three years after harvest, though the best can be cellared for longer.

Each cru has its own inherent character. For example, Fleurie is known for its deep colour and floral/fruity notes, whereas wines from Côte de Brouilly are well-structured drops with mineral notes.

In the Beaujolais region, all grapes must be picked by hand. A winemaking technique commonly used there is carbonic maceration, in which whole grapes undergo an internal fermentation. It is this process, in combination with the inherent characteristics of gamay, that produces the very intense and pure berry notes that the region is renowned for.

Gamay is currently enjoying a revival with the sommeliers of Australia. It's not uncommon to see Australian gamay or Beaujolais available by the glass, and it makes for an affordable option when buying a bottle. It also suits a wide range of foods, including salmon sashimi and other Asian dishes, salads and light meats. Sorrenberg Gamay, from Victoria, is one of Australia's best examples. As for French offerings, these are labelled by region, so don't be concerned by the absence of the word 'gamay' on the label.

You may need to search outside of the major retail chains to find a diverse selection. Prince Wine Store (www.princewinestore.com.au) offers a good range, including the particularly delicious 2013 Potel-Aviron Juliénas, a wine of intense aroma, excellent structure and great depth of character. **H&G**



TONI'S TOP DROPS

2013 Louis Jadot Combe Aux Jacques Beaujolais-Villages, $27
A stylish, wildly aromatic Beaujolais-Villages with pure strawberry fruit. It displays lovely complexity, including a little minerality.

2013 Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais-Villages, $17
With its raspberry and violet top notes, this wine is as beautiful as the gorgeous label suggests. Very soft, plush and easy to drink.

2015 La Boheme Act Four Syrah Gamay, $20
A local blend of shiraz and gamay that has delicious black cherry flavours, plus a little black pepper and spice.

2015 Vinoque Roundstone Vineyard Gamay Noir, $25
Incredibly youthful, with red berry aromatics and a bright, refreshing lightweight palate.

Photograph by Will Horner.

ENTERTAINING

AT MY TABLE



Milk is so much more than a breakfast table staple. Add a dash to give a dish complexity or go all out and make it the hero, writes **Jared Ingersoll.**

Milk is truly wonderful stuff. It is used to make some of the best food products in the world – butter, cream and cheese – and is a versatile ingredient on its own. Add a dash to your next bolognaise and the result will have you licking your lips. There are many different milks, each with a unique flavour, texture and fat content. One milk that is particularly delicious, although not easy to source, is camel's milk. Buffalo milk is quite sweet; goats' and sheep's milk aromatic; jersey cow's milk is just the ticket if you have a hankering for something really creamy. I have opted to use cow's milk in these recipes purely because it is the most accessible, but feel free to experiment with other milks. If you are sensitive to cow's milk, you may find goats' milk a good alternative.

CHICKEN ROASTED IN MILK

Prep: 10 mins. Cooking: 55 mins. Serves 4.

1½ tbsp olive oil
1.6kg chicken, preferably free-range
2 heads garlic, cut in half horizontally
1 bunch sage, leaves picked
2 lemons, peeled, peel reserved and flesh cut in half
1.5L full-cream milk, plus 600ml extra
1 cup instant polenta
10g unsalted butter
Green salad leaves, to serve

1 / Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan). Heat olive oil in a flame-proof casserole dish over medium heat. Tie chicken legs together with kitchen string and season chicken well all over. Place chicken in pan, breast-side down, and cook for about 3mins or until skin is golden. Repeat on all sides until coloured all over, about 10mins. Remove chicken from pan and set aside.

2 / In same pan, add garlic, sage and lemon peel and fry until golden, about 3mins. Return chicken to pan, then add 1.5L milk and lemon halves. Transfer pan to oven and roast, uncovered, for 40mins or until tender. Baste occasionally. Transfer chicken to a plate and tent loosely with foil. Leave to rest for 20mins.

3 / Meanwhile, make polenta. Place 600ml milk and 600ml water in a saucepan over medium-high heat and bring to the boil. Add polenta in a thin stream, whisking continuously until incorporated. When polenta starts to thicken, reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 15mins or until thick and creamy. Stir butter through, season to taste and keep warm.

4 / Serve chicken with a little of the curd and juices from the pan and polenta and salad leaves on the side.

PALAK PANEER

Prep: 20 mins + overnight refrigeration. Cooking: 15 mins. Serves 4-6.

100g ghee or clarified butter
1 onion, finely diced
6 cloves garlic, crushed
3cm piece fresh ginger
1 tbsp cumin seeds
3 large ripe tomatoes, diced
300g baby spinach
Pinch garam masala
½ cup (125ml) pouring cream
Finely chopped green chilli, to taste
Steamed basmati rice, to serve

Paneer

6 cups full-cream milk
¼ cup of white vinegar

1 / To make paneer, heat milk over high heat until just about to boil (87°C); immediately remove from heat and stir through vinegar (milk should curdle). Cover saucepan with a cloth and stand for 10mins. Pour curds into a fine-mesh strainer lined with muslin or an unused Chux-type cloth. Squeeze out excess moisture, then return to strainer and set over a bowl. Cover with cloth, weight with food cans and refrigerate overnight to remove as much liquid as possible.

2 / Melt ghee in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, ginger and cumin and stir occasionally for 3mins or until just fragrant and toasted. Add tomatoes and cook for 3mins or until flesh begins to break down. Add spinach and garam masala, season with salt, then add paneer and cream and stir gently for 2mins or until cheese is warmed through. Check seasoning then serve with steamed rice and fresh chilli. **H&G**



MILK IS AN INCREDIBLY VERSATILE INGREDIENT.

Styling by Michaela Le Compte. Photography by John Paul Urizar.

PEAK SEASON

Sailing to Tasmania's eastern islands to walk their remote summits is the perfect foil to a fast-paced life, writes award-winning author, Favel Parrett.

Beautiful bright colours make summer a thrilling time to sail, but I love the golden hues of autumn in Tasmania. And that's what I am fortunate to experience on a four-day adventure with the Tasmanian Walking Company. The trip, on which I sail to the state's outer islands to trek their peaks, combines my two great loves: sailing and walking. Tasmania is where I grew up and its ancient forests and cold, clean waters have shaped me and stayed with me all my life. There is nowhere in the world quite like the Tasmanian wilderness.

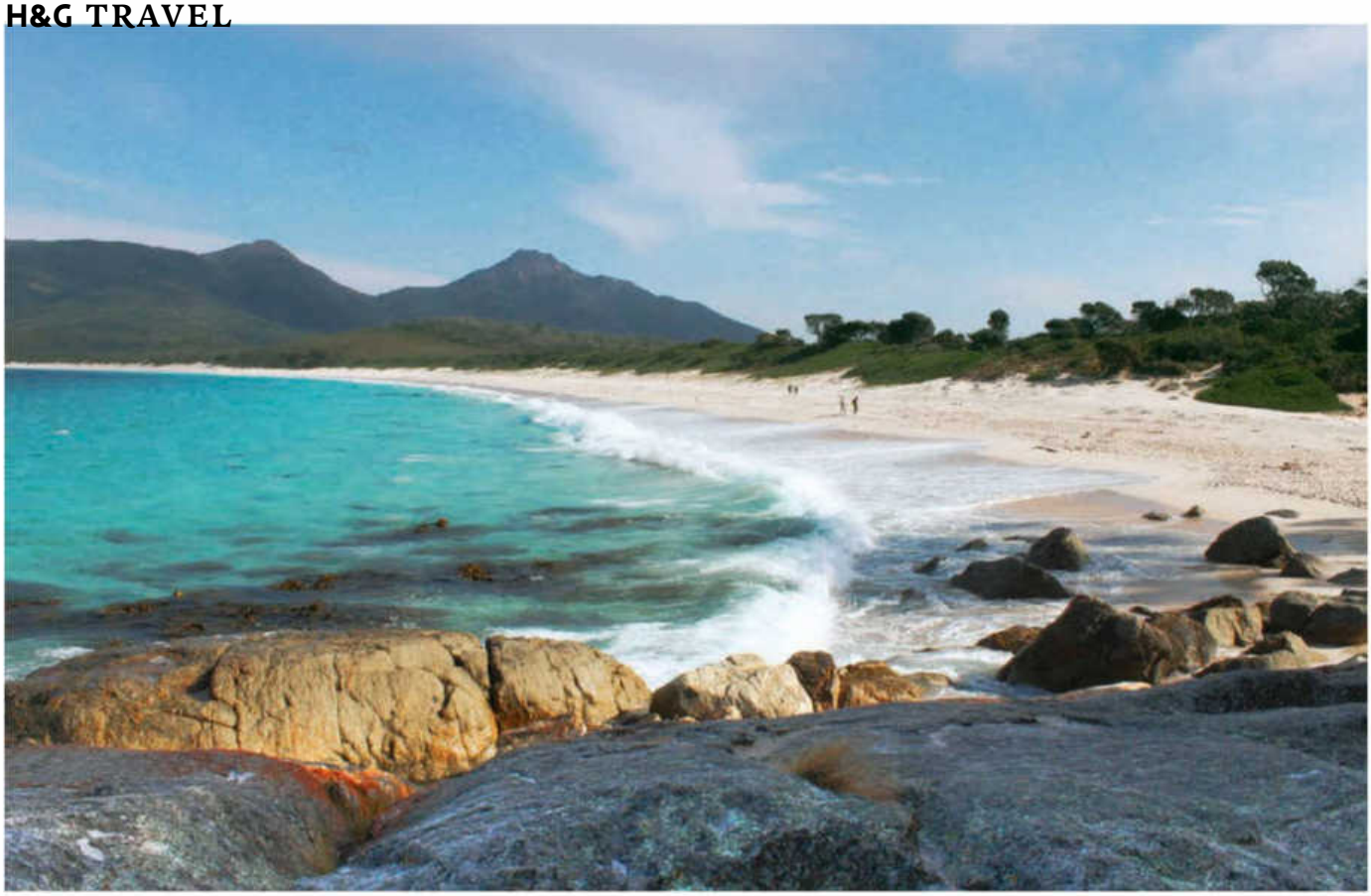
In May, the sky is bright blue as we leave Triabunna, on the east coast, to board our luxury ketch, *Lady Eugenie*. And what a lady she is. At 23m, with polished wood and brass, she's all class. I am assigned one of four cabins with a private bathroom and porthole from which to gaze at the ocean. Perfect.

We set sail across Mercury Passage for the mountainous terrain of Maria Island, a 116km² national park. The water is still and clear when a pod of dolphins escorts us out of the bay. Incidentally, this isn't the only time we see dolphins. A pod appears each time we sail, riding the bow, playing and breaching over and over. There are other creatures too – fur seals, little penguins and shy albatross – all the sea creatures I like most.

Maria Island is the Tasmania of my childhood, a moody landscape that appears in my writing. Once home to convicts, it's now uninhabited aside from day visitors, campers and copious wildlife. There's the option of visiting the World Heritage-listed Darlington station and preserved shell and coral-like fossils along the Fossil Cliffs, but I elect to climb the towering dolerite peaks of Bishop and Clerk. They're steep, but the reward is ▶

After exploring eastern islands and the Freycinet Peninsula each day, guests aboard *Lady Eugenie* are treated to three-course meals on land or sea, then lulled to sleep by the gentle ocean swell.





Favel Parrett was a guest of Tasmanian Walking Company. Photography by John Paul Urizar/bauersyndication.com.au (quince chutney), Getty Images (dophins and Maria Island) and Tourism Tasmania.

TWITCHER'S CHECKLIST

Black-faced cormorant, shy albatross, yellow-throated honeyeater, crescent honeyeater, scarlet robin, short-tailed shearwater (mutton bird), little (or fairy) penguin, white-faced heron, curlew sandpiper, sooty oystercatcher, red-capped plover, Pacific gull, laughing kookaburra, superb fairy-wren, New Holland honeyeater, Australian magpie, green rosella, pied oystercatcher, wedge-tailed eagle, white-bellied sea eagle and Australasian gannet.

FAVEL'S TASMANIA

Favel Parrett is the author of two novels, both with a strong sense of place – 2011's award-winning *Past the Shallows*, a story set in south-east Tasmania, and her latest book, Antarctica-inspired *When the Night Comes*. www.favelparrett.com.au.

◀ evident after a few solid hours of walking. At 620m, the view towards Schouten Island and the Freycinet Peninsula is a taste of what's to come. Water, more water… and space to breathe.

On the descent, as evening approaches, wombats emerge to graze on the native grasses while sea eagles soar above. The world feels just right. After the walk, tired but happy, I catch the motorised dinghy back to *Lady Eugenie*, where a huge cheese platter and wine are waiting.

The next stop is Schouten Island, a mountain in the sea. White sand, turquoise water, and no other people in sight. It takes me two hours to climb to the summit of Bear Hill, where I experience more magical vistas of ocean, wilderness and sky. I feel fit and virtuous when I arrive back at the beach for sparkling wine and oysters. It's the perfect way to end an afternoon of walking: as I enjoy the gourmet food, I soothe my tired feet by massaging them in the sand.

My last big day of walking is at Wineglass Bay, one of the most spectacular regions on the planet. I take my time and meander along the vast midden-lined Cooks Beach, walking around inland lakes and through blue-gum forests. I search for rare orchids and brightly coloured fungi to marvel at. The walk ends with a divine hot chocolate on the sands of the bay.

Part of the magic of this trip is that my mind has stopped focusing on work. Perhaps it is also the walking, or the sailing, or the majesty of the surroundings – I'm not sure. But it's priceless to switch off and be in the moment, to look up and out at the ancient beauty of Tasmania, to stare at a sunrise rather than a screen, to hear birdsong first thing in the morning instead of an alarm, to watch the sun slip down below the horizon with a glass of wine at the end of each day.

I feel as though I've been away far longer than four days. But that's the restorative power of pure, unadulterated nature, combined with a little luxury. **H&G**

Wineglass Bay Sail Walk, Tasmanian Walking Company; (03) 6392 2211 or www.taswalkingco.com.au.

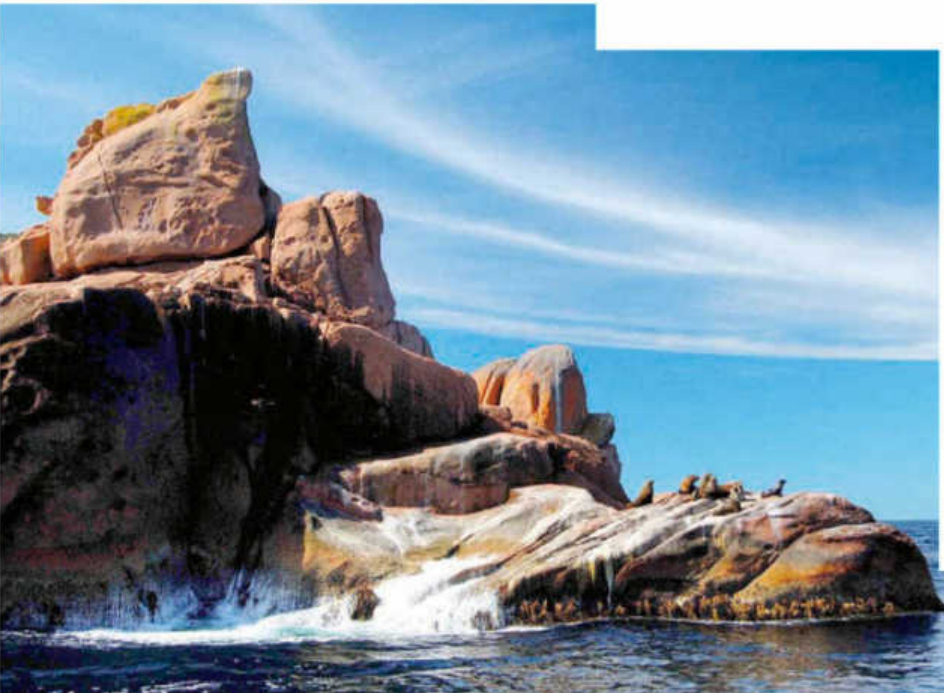






CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT / In a place where nature is well protected, it's not unusual for pods of playful dolphins to greet tourist boats. There's plenty of space to drop anchor at Wineglass Bay, a more leisurely option than visiting the Freycinet Peninsula by car and taking the path to the beach through The Hazards. On board the *Lady Eugenie* there are steady offerings of delicious Tasmanian cuisine. Wineglass Bay shows off its gentle curves. Seals assemble on the rocks of Ile des Phoques. The 1825 Commissariat Store and now visitor centre on Maria Island, a national park and walkers' paradise.
OPPOSITE / The unmistakeable arc of Wineglass Bay.







HEALTH

SPOT CHECK



Regularly running an eye over your body is a simple but crucial measure in the fight against skin cancer. It might just prove to be a lifesaver, writes **Paula Goodyer.**

SELF CHECKOUT

Undress completely and check your skin in a good light. Be sure to check your whole body: skin cancers sometimes appear on parts of the body not exposed to the sun, such as the soles of the feet, between fingers and toes, and even under fingernails. For more advice, go to the Cancer Council Australia website (www.cancer.org.au) and read the tips on prevention and sun safety.



'IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE LANDSCAPE OF YOUR SKIN, SO YOU CAN BE AWARE OF ANY CHANGES.' DR VICTORIA MAR

You might think that the people who detect the most skin cancers are health professionals. The truth is, untrained eyes like yours and mine discover most of the marks on skin that turn out to be cancerous, says Dr Victoria Mar, a Fellow of The Australasian College of Dermatologists. So it's no wonder that dermatologists are keen for us to perform skin checks on ourselves and on those we love.

"We suggest checking four times a year," says Dr Mar. "Ask someone to check places that are hard to see, such as your back or scalp, or use a mirror. What you're looking for is something new, something that's changed – a change to an existing mole, freckle or other mark, for example – or something different to other spots. It's important to be familiar with the landscape of your skin from your 20s and 30s, so you can be aware of any changes."

The skin cancer that tends to scare us most is a potentially fatal melanoma. Australia, together with New Zealand, has the world's highest incidence rate for this disease, according to Cancer Council Australia. But with early detection and treatment, melanoma can be cured, says Dr Mar.

"The signs to look for are the 'ABCDEs' of melanoma. A is for asymmetrical: the mark is uneven rather than symmetrical. B is for border: a mark with an irregular rather than an even border. C is for colour: a mark with multiple colours of red, pink and black can be suspicious. D is for diameter: a mark more than 6mm in diameter. E is for evolving: the mark may be elevated, firm and growing."

Other skin cancers include basal cell carcinomas, which are not usually life-threatening, and squamous cell carcinomas, which can be, particularly when they appear on the head and neck, says Dr Mar.

"Signs to look for: crusty sores that don't heal; small lumps that are red, pale or pearly in colour; and scaly spots that become thickened and tender to the touch."

Besides DIY vigilance, we also need professional skin checks from a GP or a dermatologist. The frequency of these will depend on individual risk factors. "Your doctor can advise you. It could be every year, or more, or less," says Dr Mar. "Having blue eyes and fair skin that burns or freckles easily, or a family history of melanoma, increases skin cancer risk." **H&G**

Illustration by Domenic Bahmann.

BEAUTY

NATURE ZONE



A new generation of nature-based, home-grown products aims to nurture skin and hair, and our general wellbeing, writes **Elisabeth King.**

Choosing natural, organic or vegan beauty products no longer means sacrificing performance. The latest fomulations offer sophisticated textures and visible results, with Australian products at the forefront:

1 / *Pure Hair Food Hydrate Your Hair Shampoo and Conditioner, $29/each* The 'no nasties' shampoo is packed with argan oil, pro-vitamin B5 and wheat protein, while the conditioner uses sweet almond oil and shea butter to detangle, moisturise and repair locks.

2 / *The Jojoba Company Natural Pigmentation Oil, $40* Most anti-pigmentation products rely on chemicals to target age spots and uneven skin tone. This jojoba-based product is enriched with *Rumex* extract, carrot and buriti oils and claims to reduce the appearance of pigmentation by 25 per cent within six weeks.

3 / *Jurlique Nutri-Define Eye Contour Balm, $95* Proving that 'natural luxury' is no contradiction, the Nutri-Define range took Jurlique's anti-ageing expertise to a new level with its potent Biosome5 delivery system. This new balm, containing hydrolysed lupine protein and ginseng root, offers a deep-acting treatment that zeros in on wrinkles, sagging skin and dark under-eye circles.

4 / *Swisse Hibiscus Anti-Aging Night Cream, $25* Nutrient-rich with hibiscus extract, vitamin K2 and antioxidant CoQ10, from a pillar of Australia's wellness industry, this night-shift worker boosts skin elasticity and tone as you sleep.

5 / *Nude by Nature BB 5-in-1 Miracle Cream, $20* Australia's leading mineral make-up brand uses native ingredients and can be used even by women with issues such as rosacea and acne. This hydrating and perfecting cream also contains sunscreen to ward off environmental damage.

6 / *Grown Alchemist Tinted Hydra-Repair Day Cream, $50* Grown Alchemist is a trailblazer in developing high-performance natural skincare. This day cream mixes camellia, aloe, geranium and jojoba actives to hydrate and smooth, aiming to increase cell turnover for younger-looking skin. The slight tint adds a radiant glow.

7 / *Natio Cucumber & Aloe Micellar Cleansing Water, $15* Too much washing can strip the skin of moisture. Instead, turn to all-in-one products containing molecules called micelles that extract sebum and make-up in one swipe. Natio's soothing formula cleanses, tones and conditions without the need to rinse. **H&G**

Linen napkin and timber bowl, plates and spoon, all Muji; (02) 8036 4556 or www.muji.com/au.

Styling by Kayla Gex. Photograph by Will Horner.

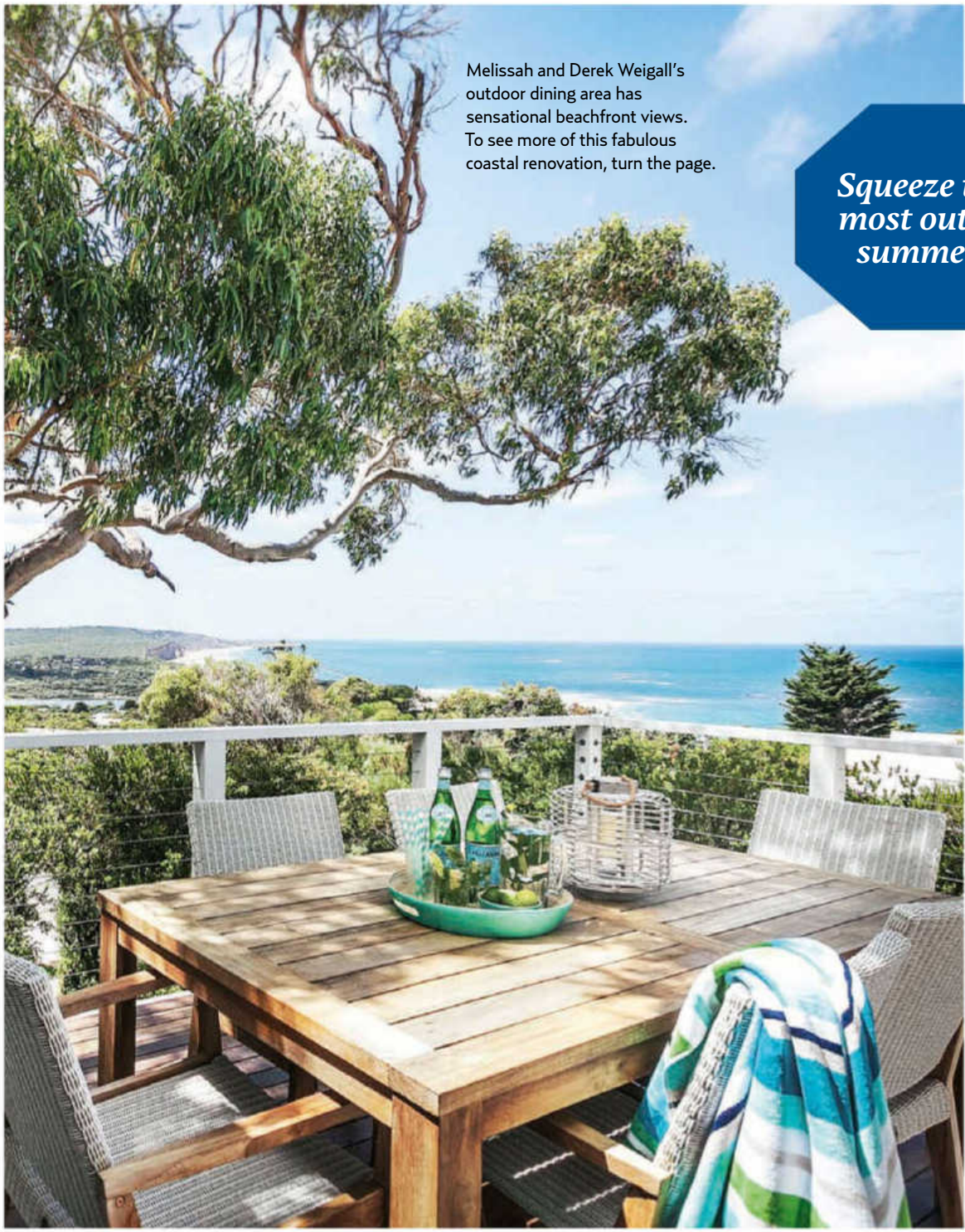
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Melissah and Derek Weigall's outdoor dining area has sensational beachfront views. To see more of this fabulous coastal renovation, turn the page.

Squeeze the most out of summer!

Photograph by Matt Lord.

ADVICE

RENOVATOR'S NOTEBOOK / MOZZIE-PROOF LIVING / ASK AN EXPERT / PROPERTY / PETS



RENOVATOR'S NOTEBOOK

BEACHY KEEN

It needed TLC, but the owners of this beach cottage in Victoria saw the value of its timeless design and the breezy lifestyle it promised.

STORY **ELIZABETH WILSON** / PHOTOGRAPHY **MATT LORD**



A seven-minute walk to the beach was just one of this home's drawcards. Melissah and Derek knew they could rework and redecorate the interior to transform it into a home that exudes 1950s beach glamour.

Love at first sight "and horror at second sight" is how interior designer Melissah Weigall describes her initial encounters with this 1950s beach house at Anglesea on the Great Ocean Road. Her first visit was an external viewing only, but she managed to stand on the deck taking in the acres of glass and 180-degree ocean views. But when she returned to go through the home the next day, with husband Derek in tow, excitement turned to despair. "It needed restumping and rewiring. It was a bit horrifying," says Melissah. "It was almost too far gone to worry about it." Almost, but not quite. The couple found themselves placing the winning bid at auction 48 hours later. "We thought it was worth the gamble."

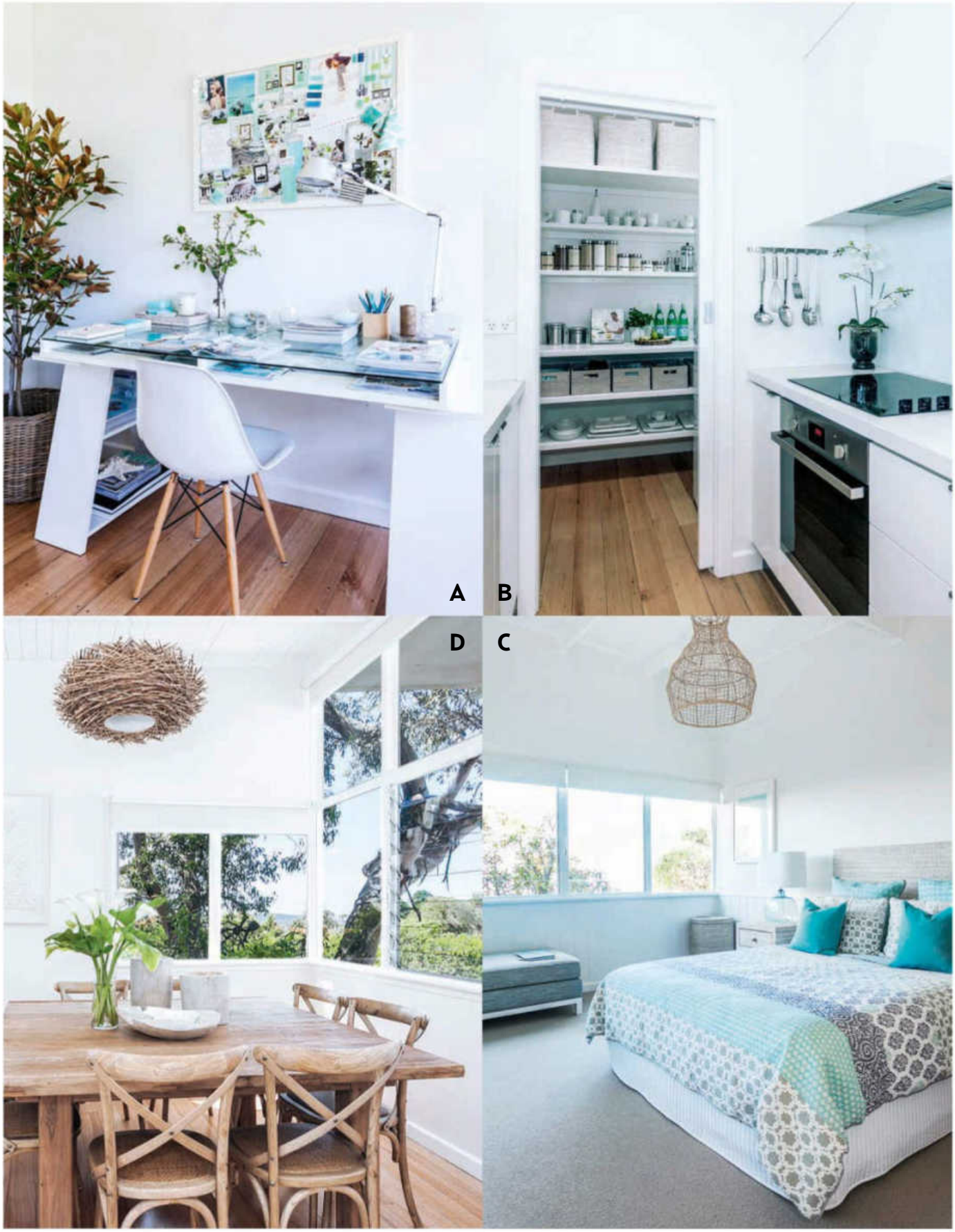
In the two years since, they've gutted and stripped the house, restumped, rewired, replumbed, installed new plasterboard walls, polished the floors and repainted throughout. While maintaining the footprint, they've also built a deck, kitchen, bathroom, ensuite and laundry.

The result is a home that exudes 1950s beach glamour. With its stone feature wall, skillion roof, timber-lined ceilings, cantilevered living room and louvres, it's also an exemplar of mid-century architecture. "It was designed by local architect Alec Chomley, who specialised in coastal architecture," says Melissah, who confirms she and Derek were mindful of his legacy. For Melissah, who writes a blog about coastal living, owning this home is living the dream. "It's the quintessential Australian beach house," says Melissah. "It feels as though we're on holidays all the time."

AT A GLANCE

Who lives here Melissah Weigall, interior designer and blogger at coastal-style.blogspot.com and her husband Derek, a landscape architect.
Renovation duration Seven months.
Tradies All local.
Interiors Melissah Weigall, Indesign Concepts; 0419 582 067 or www.indesignconcepts.com.au.
Size of home pre-renovation 210m²
Size of home post-renovation 210m²




A
B
D
C

A *Office*

The office has been created in the former downstairs games room. "We both work long hours from home, but our home is light-filled and uplifting," says Melissah.

B *Kitchen*

The kitchen remains in its original position but has been transformed with a clever update. "We recycled half of the cabinetry carcasses and freshened things up with vinyl-wrap doors," says Melissah.
A 6mm-thick slab of reconstituted stone was laid over the chipped laminate benchtop and a glass splashback was added for a clean-lined look. "The result was a brand-new kitchen for a fraction of the cost," says Melissah.

C *Main bedroom*

The light-filled main bedroom echoes the colours of sand and sea. The white-washed timber bedhead and bedside tables accentuate the natural beachy feel.

D *Dining room*

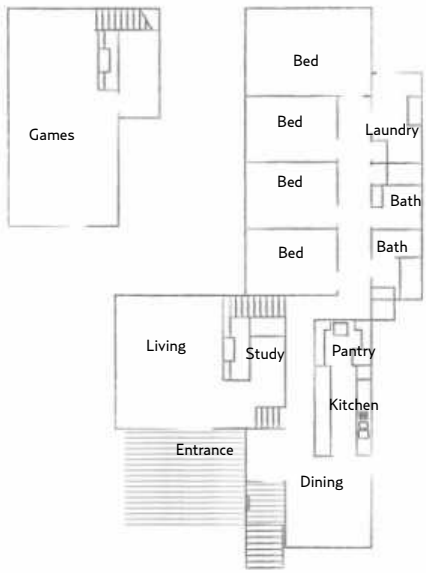
A room with a view... The dining table is made from an antique Chinese temple door. The table and cross-back chairs are from Maison Est.

Ensuite (below)

Melissah and Derek converted a bedroom to create this spacious ensuite, which now offers ocean views from the bath. With high ceilings, white-panelled walls and polished floors, it's an airy retreat.



BEFORE



AFTER





Melissah's top tips for renovating:

Melissah and Derek did a lot of the heavy lifting themselves, with Derek coordinating tradies and Melissah looking after the finishes, fittings, furniture and decorating. They shared the painting, landscaping and basic carpentry.

- ✚ Do your research: shop around for the best products, solutions, trades and prices.
- ✚ Be organised with your plans, contacts, quotes, receipts, brochures and samples: place all documents in folders with dividers.
- ✚ Work out a budget and keep it on track. And factor in the inevitable blowouts.
- ✚ Set up a job sheet, timeline and schedule so you know when to organise tradies and order materials. Book jobs in sequence.
- ✚ Be flexible with solutions; not everything will go according to plan.
- ✚ Establish an interiors scheme to suit your house, lifestyle and personality. Keep the look consistent throughout. **H&G**

THE BUDGET

Demolition	4,050	Tiling	4,200
Restumping	8,400	Carpet	4,440
Carpentry	26,500	Repair & polish boards	5,500
Electricals	10,000	Architectural hardware	2,500
Light fittings	3,000	Painting	3,000
Kitchen appliances	2,000	Tapware & sanitaryware	4,250
Plumbing	11,000	Blinds	4,000
Joinery	15,210	Driveway	13,000
Stone masonry	4,900	Paving	5,500
Plastering	7,000	Deck	3,500
Insulation	2,500	Landscaping	2,000
Glazing	3,500	**TOTAL**	**$ 149,950**

SPECIAL REPORT

MOZZIE PROOFING

With summer comes pesky mosquitoes, but rising to meet them are new screens, fans and other measures that will keep them at bay, writes **Lisa Doust.**

Mosquitoes are one of summer's inevitable annoyances. But, given the rising incidence of mosquito-borne diseases in some areas of Australia, it's more important than ever to keep them out of the house.

SCREEN PROCESS

Screens are your home's first line of defence against mosquitoes. If you're building or renovating, ensure your choices suit your location – and do the job.

Modern screens are very different to those in older homes. "The latest screens allow for a streamlined and minimal look while inhibiting mosquitoes and flies better than ever," says Shawn Godwin, director of Brisbane's Base Architecture. "The research and development that screen manufacturers are putting into their products means that it's easier to incorporate screens into the design process."

If you're looking to keep mosquitoes, flies and moths out of the house, look for mesh with a 1.7x1.3mm aperture. If you live in an area prone to sandflies or midges, a finer mesh with an aperture of about 1.2x1.3mm is required.

Brisbane architect Paul Uhlmann says that while screening standard-size windows is a straightforward affair, there's a wider choice of products when it comes to screening doors. "Options include traditional sliding and hinged doors, and screens that roll away, pleat or recess," he says. "Or, you can completely enclose the adjoining outdoor space with a fine mesh so the doors don't require screens at all."

WHICH MESH IS BEST?

If you live near the ocean, consider PVC-coated fibreglass mesh, which is UV-stabilised and flexible and will not rust or shrink. "The product doesn't corrode and can be rolled, however it doesn't conform to bushfire safety codes, which require screens to be made from materials that help prevent embers entering the home," says Uhlmann. Before installing, check the regulations for your home's Bushfire Attack Level (BAL).

If you are retrofitting, source the screens directly from the door or window manufacturer, says Bob Andrews, architectural representative at Trend Windows & Doors. "If you can, go back to the supplier, so they can suggest screens that fit perfectly. From a visual perspective, black mesh is most popular as it doesn't impinge on your view."

Select carefully and security shouldn't be a concern, says Andrews, who adds that modern screen components are so strong that you can have doors and windows wide open at all times without having to worry about safety. "We work with a mesh product called ForceField, which is made from ▶

SCREEN STARS

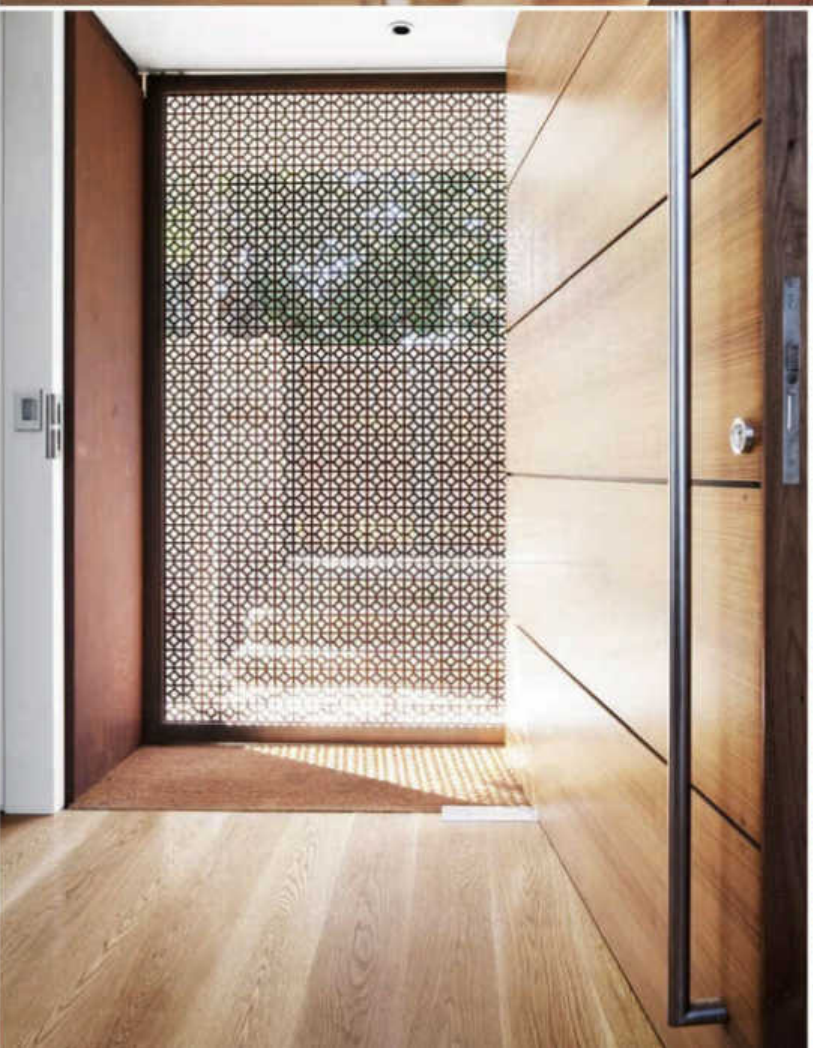
Andrew Cooksley, architect with screen-manufacturer Centor, advises you to consider these factors when selecting a screen:

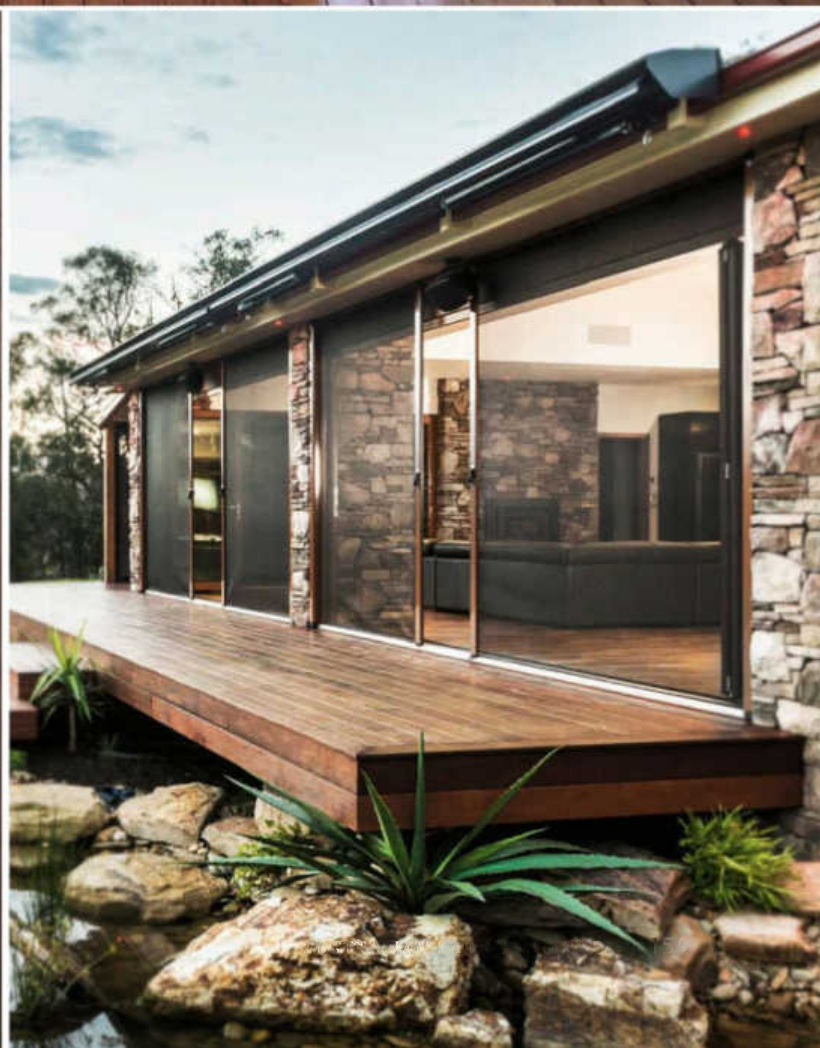
- **Purpose** Is the door or window framing a view, providing access to an outdoor living area or allowing ventilation?
- **Ease of operation** This is important when an opening connects indoor and outdoor living spaces that are used frequently.
- **Ease of cleaning** Look for screens designed to minimise dirt and dust accumulation.
- **Strength** A screen system should be robust enough to deal with pets, children and a visitor who might accidentally walk into it.
- **Repair and replacement** It should be possible to go back to the manufacturer to deal with damage or wear and tear over time.

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP / Custom-made timber-framed sliding windows and hardwood timber door (in Crimsafe mesh) by Andrew Simpson Architects in collaboration with Charles Anderson. Custom-made Infinity Zipline Screen with aluminium frame, from Freedom Retractable Screens. Laser-cut Corten steel screen door by MCK Architecture & Interiors.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Photograph by Peter Bennetts (kitchen).









As well as retracting fully when not in use, Centor's S1E Eco-Screen is designed to open as wide as 7.6m from any height.

◀ marine-grade stainless steel welded into the frame so it can't be cut or penetrated." French doors or bifolds should have retractable or pleated screens.

WIDE OPEN

If you're looking for a screen that's as 'invisible' as it can be, opt for a retractable screen, bearing in mind that today's mesh is so fine, you risk visitors walking right through it. Retractable screens roll right back into a cassette and require higher tracks at the top and bottom to create a strong tension in the mesh of the closed door. Very wide openings are probably best fitted with pleated screen doors made up of several smaller sections or panels that, as the name suggests, 'pleat' back to open. Pleated screens require only narrow tracks and channels and, fully open, stack back to the narrow width.

OTHER MEASURES

Screens may be your first line of defence against mozzies, but they're not the only way to keep them at bay. Ceiling fans create movement in the air that prevents the critters circling and zeroing in. Fans also help reduce body heat and disperse exhaled carbon dioxide, both of which are irresistible to biting female mosquitoes.

Mosquito nets will help, too. If you live in a region where diseases such as Ross River virus, dengue fever or Barmah Forest virus are prevalent, spray nets with DEET or picaridin-based repellent, says Dr Cameron Webb, an entomologist at University of Sydney who is an expert on mosquito-borne diseases.

"Picaridin works as well as DEET and has the advantage of being odourless," he says. "People worry about these chemicals but DEET, and increasingly picaridin, is widely used and very few serious adverse reactions have been reported."

Another line of defence is planting citronella, sandalwood, tea-tree and Mozzie Blocker plants around the house. Dr Webb is sceptical about their efficacy but many people swear by them. **H&G**

3 OF A KIND... CEILING FANS



Fijian II 132cm **fan** with rattan blades, $210, Beacon Lighting.



Aeratron e503 ABS plastic **ceiling fan**, $430, AeroDC.



HPM Hang-sure 120cm stainless-steel **ceiling fan**, $98, Bunnings.

For Where to Buy, see page 188.

NEW

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ask an expert



Interiors expert **Rose-Marie Hillier** advises on colours that sing with sepia-toned floors. Plus, the fast path to keeping your cool with a round-up of stylish portable fans.

WRITE IN

Send your question, with your name and address, to Rose-Marie via H&G Advice, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028, or email h&g@bauer-media.com.au.

Q *I'm installing bamboo floors in Sepia, which is quite a dark colour with warm highlights. I was planning to paint the walls Dulux Antique White USA but I wonder if some other colour or a deeper tone would work better?*
Annette Tests, via viewa

A A sepia-toned bamboo floor has wow factor indeed – it is lustrous and chocolatey and a beautiful choice if you are going for a neutral scheme. I would rethink the paint colour choice, however. A cleaner, fresher white such as Dulux Natural White will complement your floor, but if you feel that this creates too intense a contrast between walls and floor, you could opt for some colour on the walls with white on the ceiling and trims. Muted blues with a warm base such as Dulux Template Quarter, Murobond Paint's Aqua and Sea Salt, or soft, citrusy greens such as Dulux New Hope Half, Murobond Paint's Bonsai and Lettuce Green will work very nicely with the sepia tones of the floor. If you prefer a neutral look, another option is to paint the walls in Dulux Sandy Day or Nut Milk, but again use white for trims and ceilings. Remember, dark floors create shadows so something that needs to be addressed is the overall level of lighting. Make sure there is good general lighting as well as mood lighting.
www.dulux.com.au; www.murobond.com.au.



Artwork by Allen de Carteret. Photograph by Maree Homer.

FAST FIND

PORTABLE FANS

Fans quickly and efficiently circulate the air, providing welcome relief from summer's sizzle. Here's a look at the latest chic designs, suitable for every room in the house.



Dyson AM06 desk fan
If you want a portable fan that's quiet, consumes 40-per-cent less power than regular fans, has a sleep timer and is easy to clean, then this is it. Featuring Dyson's Air Multiplier technology instead of blades, it's a great option for those with young children. $449; www.dyson.com.au.



Stadler Form Otto floor fan
Designed by popular Swiss artist Carlo Borer, this smart fan brings mid-century modern style to the floor. It has an eco-friendly bamboo frame, three power levels and removable grille for easy cleaning of fan blades. $249; www.davidjones.com.au.



Omega Altise High Velocity floor fan
This ultra-portable three-speed fan circulates air from the floor up. It features a robust all-metal construction with chrome finish, stands 46cm high and is tilt-adjustable. $119; 1800 354 663 or www.davidjones.com.au.



Mistral Retro desk fan
This groovy little three-speed desk fan is perfect for the kitchen, home office and bedroom. It oscillates and tilts to give you a cooling breeze in most directions. $43; www.bunnings.com.au.



Fanimation Arden oscillating floor fan
Inspired by the clean, classic lines of a photographer's tripod, this floor fan is a stylish alternative to the traditional pedestal fan. Available in a choice of oil-rubbed bronze or satin nickel finish, it also features a three-speed motor and oscillates through 50 degrees. $455; 1300 900 675 or www.zizo.com.au.

Or try these...

Retro USB Desk Fan This super-quiet two-speed oscillating Retro USB desk fan plugs directly into your computer's USB port. It will also run on four AA batteries, $35; 1300 304 924 or www.thegiftedman.com.au. ***Sunbeam FA7500 tower fan*** Tower fans fit into compact spaces and can be quieter than bladed fans, making them great for bedrooms. This one comes with a handy remote as well as an auto-off timer and 70-degree oscillation. $169; www.sunbeam.com.au. ***Moretti 3-Speed pedestal fan*** A traditional five-bladed pedestal fan that both oscillates and tilts. $42; www.bunnings.com.au. ***Vornado 533 Air Circulator floor fan*** This energy-efficient fan evenly distributes air throughout a whole room (21m coverage). Claims to be whisper quiet too. $129; www.harveynorman.com.au.

GARDENING Q&A



Q I have a visually impaired child and would like to create a special space in the garden where she can engage with nature. What sort of plants would you recommend for a sensory garden?
M Thompson, Adelaide, SA

A Perfumed flowers are an obvious choice, but don't forget plants with aromatic foliage. These include native mint bush (*Prostanthera*) and white wax flower (*Philotheca*), as well as lemon verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*), lavender and pineapple sage (*Salvia elegans*). Scented-leaf pelargoniums would be good; there are many 'flavours' to choose from, including rose, lemon, nutmeg and peppermint. Culinary herbs can be smelled and tasted, too. Some favourites are dill, chocolate mint and lemon balm. A thyme or chamomile groundcover will release its scent as you step across it. Plants to touch include soft, felty lambs' ears (*Stachys byzantina*) and woolly bush (*Adenanthos*), also called pat bush. Include tickly grasses such as blue fescue (*Festuca glauca*) or foxtail grass (*Pennisetum 'Rubrum'*), and perhaps the rougher textures of native rasp fern (*Doodia*). Tall grasses, bamboos and she-oaks (*Casuarina*) will whisper in the breeze. Raised beds make access to plants easier, while fountains and wind chimes aid orientation as well as adding pleasing sounds. You could also consider using crunchy gravel on paths.

– Helen Young, gardening expert.

Photograph from Getty Images (garden).



Photograph by Brett Stevens/bauersyndication.com.au.

the green house

excess fare

Make a resolution to love leftover festive food instead of consigning it to landfill, writes **Sarah Pickette.**

Eat, drink and be merry: Christmas and New Year are times when our refrigerators tend to groan with food. Lengthy shopping lists reflect the magnitude of our feasting and most of us keep extra food on hand, just in case unexpected visitors appear at the door.

But when you've farewelled your guests, what will be left? If you are in the position of having surplus food, be kind to the environment and embrace your leftovers instead of wasting them. "It's natural to want to be generous in what you serve up at this time of year," says Jon Dee, co-founder of Planet Ark and DoSomething, "but it's important to have a plan for what you might do with leftover food. Throwing it away is bad for your hip pocket and terrible for the environment."

DoSomething's Foodwise campaign shines a light on the consequences of culinary waste. "Australians throw out $8 billion worth of edible food annually," says Dee. "This time of year is when even more food than usual winds up in our bins."

What many of us don't realise is the extent to which food waste harms the environment, says Dee. "We did some research that found most Australians thought food waste just rotted benignly and safely into the earth and had little impact. That's not the case. When food waste rots in the anaerobic conditions of landfill, it creates methane, which is 25 times more harmful to the environment than the CO_2 out of your car's exhaust."

To highlight this issue, DoSomething has designated December 26 as National Leftovers Day. "When's the one day of the year most of us have leftovers and a bit of time of our hands? Boxing Day," says Dee. "We want to spread the message that if you plan your Christmas shop wisely, it's not too hard to turn leftovers into meals that you can freeze and appreciate later in the month when you're back at work."

Dee advocates a commonsense approach to festive groceries. "Plan ahead and buy just what you think you'll need. If you do have food left over, store it at the top of the fridge, where you'll see it and remember that you need to use it." ▶

For tips on using Christmas leftovers, go to www.foodwise.com.au.



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3 ways to

build character

How do you breathe soul into a new build? We purchased a two-bedroom apartment off the plan and I'm not sure how to make it look less like a 'white box'. I was thinking of using storage units to break up the spaces. Is this the best approach? *Rowan Cassidy, via email*



1 New builds are typically finished with white and glossy surfaces to make them feel open, but they can feel uninviting until they're infused with the owners' personality. First, you need to layer tonal colour to create a warm atmosphere. Then introduce accent colours that complement your existing pieces. Coarsely woven area rugs are effective at softening sterile spaces. Or, try adding oversized floor cushions and other textiles in bold patterns and colours. Incorporating storage is a good way to break up an open-plan living space. Floating shelves or an arrangement of hooks allows you to create a gallery of sentimental items that is both practical and visually interesting. You could use an open shelving unit as a room divider and add linen or wicker storage baskets.

Demi Barnes

2 It's a clever idea to divide the space with storage, but opt for freestanding furniture instead of built-in joinery. Choose natural materials such as timber and add personality with beautiful handles. It's also important to enhance the wall finishes in a new build to give some relief from all-white plasterboard. Wallpapers with subtle prints or textures such as grasscloth are perfect for bedrooms and other enclosed rooms. In open-plan spaces, install beautiful tailored curtains and other soft furnishings. Lastly, to create a soulful ambience, supplement existing downlights with additional table, floor and pendant lighting.

Brendan Wong

3 An effective way to give a space character is to surround yourself with the things that inspire you and are dear to you. Art, photographs, books, furniture and textiles that remind you of the important things in your life. Breaking up your space with storage may make it feel more cluttered; it might be better along the length of a wall. Colour and texture can be added through paint, textiles or veneer. And remember, a home's soul comes from the lives lived within it. So throw a housewarming party and create some memories!

Jennie Officer & Trent Woods H&G

THE PANEL



Demi Barnes
INTERIOR DESIGNER
Alexandra Kidd Design; (02) 9331 1554 or www.alexandrakidd.com.



Brendan Wong
INTERIOR DESIGNER
Brendan Wong Design; (02) 9699 3228 or brendanwong.com.



Jennie Officer, Trent Woods
ARCHITECTS
Officer Woods Architects; (08) 6365 8069 or www.officerwoods.com.au.

Photograph by Alicia Taylor/bauersyndication.com.au (room).

property

a fine display



Today's project homes are promoting new standards that are worlds away from the designs and lifestyles of the past, writes **Harvey Grennan.**

PROJECT HOME DISPLAY VILLAGES

NSW: Kellyville, Oran Park, Gledswood Hills.
Victoria: Cranbourne, Melton, Craigieburn, Mernda, Sunbury.
Queensland: Griffin, Springfield, North Lakes, Rochedale.
South Australia: Northgate, St Clair, Blackwood Park, Port Elliot.
Western Australia: Alkimos, Landsdale, Burns Beach,
ACT: Wright, Casey.
Northern Territory: Bellamack, Durack.

At last, the Australian project-home industry has shaken off its crusty old precepts and embraced modern trends in living and architecture.

Some companies still hold to the old format of formal living and dining rooms, simply adding casual living areas at the rear, where people really live. But others have thrown out old plans, hired architects and interior designers, and created true open-plan living.

In many cases, project home concepts are stunningly up to date, featuring higher (2.7m) ceilings, kitchens with European appliances and minimalist bathrooms. The typical design incorporates a large, open-plan indoor-outdoor space at the rear with a separate, more intimate living area elsewhere, and often a media zone.

This change can largely be attributed to more educated homebuyers and smaller lot sizes (typically 450m^2), as well as to the need for greater sustainability. "The major influences in housing design are driven by a consumer push for value and the increasing importance of sustainability," says John Carfi, Mirvac's CEO of residential development. "A sustainable house is not only more comfortable to live in but is cheaper to run."

One NSW firm, Ichijo, offers homes with an eight-star energy rating, achieved with innovative construction and climate-control technologies from Japan.

Average lot sizes are smaller than they were 20 years ago, says Carfi, but size becomes immaterial if the house functions well and supports a variety of lifestyles and life stages. "We design from the inside out, considering the way people live and move about their home, their interactions and the need to have rooms large enough for the whole family as well as intimate spaces for withdrawal."

Indoor-outdoor integration is increasingly important, says Carfi. "It has the advantage of creating a perception of space and providing useable outdoor living space."

As for construction, Stephen Thompson, managing director of NSW builder Allworth Homes, says high-volume builders are looking at new materials to replace bricks, as the availability of bricklayers has become a serious issue. "People are warming to the idea," he says, "as long as the alternatives maintain the benefits of traditional brick veneer." **H&G**



Illustration by Domenic Bahmann.



PETS

PET SCHOOL

Along with the many rewards of pet ownership comes long-term responsibilities, writes **Roger Crosthwaite.**

Pets bring many heartwarming things to a household: affection, companionship, social interaction, a reason to get out of bed and go for a walk in the morning, a warm lap on a cold night.

For all that, and more, we owe them. Pets are reliant on us for their food, shelter, health needs and their sense of belonging, so it's only right that before anyone embarks on pet ownership, they take some time to consider their responsibilities. And not only to their pet. Pet owners also have a duty to their immediate neighbours, and to the wider community, to ensure that their pet isn't a nuisance – or worse, a danger – to anybody.

A dog or a cat lives for 10 to 15 years on average. That's a long time, so you need to tick a few boxes before you set off.

Make sure you're up for it

Do you have the time, patience, stamina and funds to care for, train, exercise and provide the necessary food and vet care for a pet? Be honest, and make sure that you're willing to make all the necessary sacrifices.

Know where your pet comes from

As fast as authorities crack down on puppy farms, new ones spring up. Not only do the animals suffer while they are there, a dog sourced from a puppy farm may be susceptible to physical and behavioural problems later in life. It's important to seek out reputable breeders.

Choose a companion that fits your circumstances

A blue heeler, no matter how much you admire the breed, can't be kept in a small inner-city backyard. Be realistic about your choice of pet.

Accept responsibility

Your neighbour has the right to complain if your dog barks all day or your cat hunts the local wildlife at night. This is not someone else's problem, it's yours. Do something about it. Take your dog to a trainer. Build a cat run.

Be there for your pet

Most dogs, and many breeds of cat, actively crave company. As their 'family', you are morally obliged to provide it, and not just when you feel like it. Don't leave these social animals to languish alone.

Inform yourself

What vaccinations does my Siamese cat need? What does a tick look like? How much should I feed my labrador to prevent it becoming obese? Your pets can't tell you when they're thirsty, or when they hurt. They're relying on you to be aware and informed, and to make good decisions on their behalf. **H&G**

Photograph by Maree Homer/bauersyndication.com.au.

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Grace Garrett Bloom Design Caxton **wallpaper** in Aurora, $113/m, Sparkk. **ON TABLE from left** Berwick glass **lamp** with linen shade, $100, Haven & Space. Fleur glass **bulb vase,** $25, Freedom. Porcelain **bonbonniere,** $90, Urbaani Homewares. Straight Neck porcelain **vase,** $35, Bed Bath N' Table. Minx ceramic **temple jar,** $105, The Vignette Room. ***Real: Living A Balanced Life*** by Victoria Alexander ($59.99, Murdoch Books). Other titles, stylist's own. Arkelstorp pine **window table,** $129, Ikea.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Styling by Kayla Gex. Photograph by Scott Hawkins.

SHOPPING

50 UNDER $150 / 9 BY DESIGN / BUYER'S GUIDE TO BEDS

50 FAB buys under $150

FUN IN THE SUN

Weave a little summer magic into every room of the house with these bright, beachy and beautiful homewares.

STYLING **KAYLA GEX** / PHOTOGRAPHY **SCOTT HAWKINS**

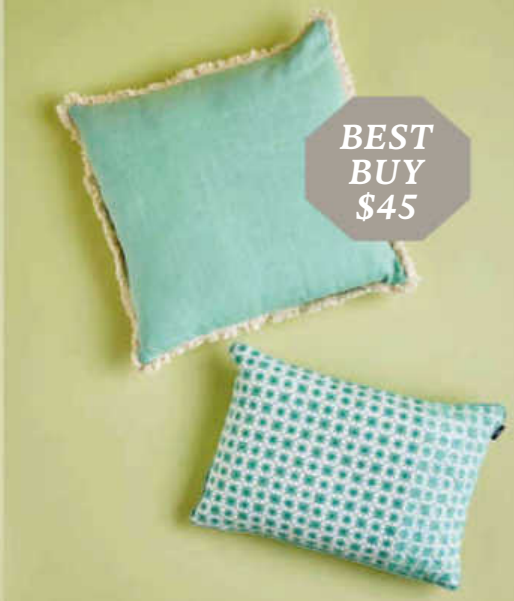


Bedhead upholstered in Grace Garrett Bloom Design Mara polyester fabric in Aurora, $97/m, Sparkk. **ON BED from rear** Soala cotton-bamboo-wool-acrylic **cushion cover** in Milk (55x55cm), $65, Citta Design. Shelly cotton **pillowcase** in White, $149/king-size quilt cover set, Pillow Talk. Barbados wool-cotton **cushion** with feather insert (65x40cm), $139, Linen & Moore. Shelly king-size cotton **quilt cover** in White, $149/quilt cover set, Pillow Talk. Madison acrylic **throw,** $50, Madras Link. Rustic Modern Vintage mangowood **bedside table,** $149, Loft Furniture. **ON BEDSIDE TABLE** Bird resin **lamp** with cotton shade, $79, Home Etc. Spritsa glass **jug,** $35, Freedom. Clam ceramic **bowl,** $45, Haven & Sarah. Dipped Belly woven **basket,** $35, Olli Ella. Corsica canvas **espadrilles,** $50, Papaya.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Stylist's assistant Sarah Maloney. Belgian linen queen-size flat sheet in Citrus Punch, $160, Major Minor Sydney.



$20, $8 / Ibiza glass **carafe** with rattan cover, $20 (left), Ibiza glass **tumblers,** $8/each, Alfresco Emporium.



$45, $55 / Finn cotton **cushion** (top), $45, and Cayman cotton **cushion,** $55, Madras Link.



$45 / Clam ceramic **bowl,** Haven & Sarah.



$94, $99, $94 / Lampshades in (clockwise from top) Florence Broadhurst Fingers, $94, Charles Parsons Eclipse Citrus, $99, and Grace Garrett Deco Flamingo, $94, all Steal the Limelight.



$55, $75 / An Art Nouveau Garden Floral ceramic **bowl,** $55/two, and **salad servers** with ceramic handles, $75/pair, Royal Hamam.



$20, $40, $149 / Hathi cotton **tea towel,** $20/set of two, Raine & Humble. Ray of Light ceramic **tea set for one,** $40, Oxfam. Rattan **tea tray,** $149, Alfresco Emporium.



$70 / Robert Gordon copper **hanging basket,** Domayne.



$90 / Pom Pom straw **basket,** My Island Home.



$10, $13, $80 / Solitude ceramic **plates,** $10 (small), $13 (large), Pillow Talk. Geometric melamine **tray,** $80, Pigott's Store.



$35, $70 / Straight Neck porcelain **vase,** $35, and Double Gourd **vase,** $70, Bed Bath N' Table.



$45, $85 / Picnic cotton **napkins,** $45/six, Lazybones. Fine Bamboo aluminium **salad servers,** $85/pair, My Island Home.



$20, $30 / Mercer+Reid Falling Leaves ceramic **trinket boxes,** $20 (small), $30 (large), Adairs.



$120 / Garden Birds **framed print** (38x64cm), My Island Home.



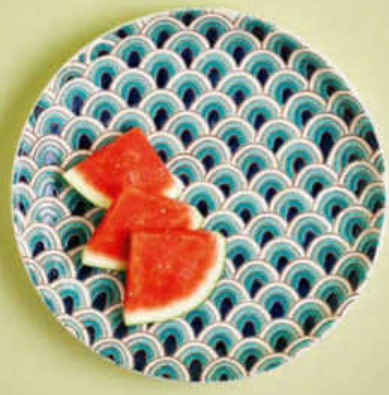
$10, $13 / Recycled-glass **tumblers** with palm-fibre covers, $10/each, Oxfam. Chill plastic **jug with infuser,** $13, Kmart.



$79 / Bird resin **lamp** with cotton shade, Home Etc.



$100, $20 / Sierra elm and rattan **dining chair,** $100, Haven & Space. Spice Market cotton **seat cushion** in Sangria, $20, Raine & Humble.



$120 / Emperors Wave ceramic **platter** (36cm), My Island Home.



$130 / Perfect Toast **two-slice toaster,** Russell Hobbs.



$105 / Minx ceramic **temple jar,** The Vignette Room.



$32 / Stoneware **mini casserole** (9cm), Le Creuset.



$140, $35 / Hanging metal **caddy,** $140, Home Etc. Spice Market cotton **placemat,** $35/four, Raine & Humble.



FROM LEFT Recycled-glass **tumbler** with palm-fibre cover, $10, Oxfam. Corinne metal **jug,** $23, Provincial Home Living. Solitude ceramic **plates,** $10/each (small), $13 (large), Pillow Talk. Tuscan Ceramics ceramic **cake plate** in Red, $9, Haven & Sarah. Morgan & Finch Bamboo bamboo **fruit bowl,** $30, Bed Bath N' Table. Classic ceramic **salt and pepper mills,** $65/each, Le Creuset. Rani oak **serving board,** $40, Freedom. Faux Bamboo five-piece aluminium **cheese knife set,** $105, My Island Home. **Tumbler,** as before. Primavera cotton **tablecloth,** $106, Linen & Moore. Background painted Endure in Pistachio Pie, $68/4L, Taubmans (throughout).



$38 / Audrey polyester **make-up bags,** $38/each, Alfresco Emporium.



$8 / Solitude ceramic **bowls,** $8/each, Pillow Talk.

For Where to Buy, see page 188.



$20 / Spice Market cotton **sacks** in Golden Yellow, $20/each, Raine & Humble.



$25 / Inaluxe eco-friendly paper **2016 calendar,** Pulp Creative Paper.



$4.95, $35 / Lemonade **glasses,** $4.95/each, Alfresco Emporium. Ceramic **juicer,** $35, Home Etc.



$25 / Mexican ceramic **plant pots,** $25/each, Haven & Sarah.



$65, $14 / Shangri-la tin **jug,** $65, and **tumblers,** $14/each, Ruby Star Traders.



BEST BUY $20

$20, $50 / Tânum cotton **runner** (70x180cm), $20, Ikea. Corsica canvas **espadrilles,** $50, Papaya.



$99, $94 / Throwback glass **table lamp,** $99, Freedom. Grace Garrett Deco Flamingo **lampshade,** $94, Steal the Limelight.



$130 / Nicolette ceramic **temple jar,** The Vignette Room.



$60 / Fabric **tissue holders** in Chicken Feet Red (left) and Small Tree Yellow, $60/each, Pigott's Store. **H&G**

For Where to Buy, see page 188.


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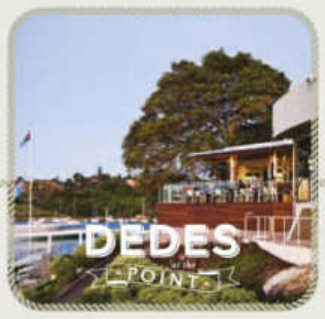
JBW ≈ PYRMONT



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WESTFIELD ≈ MIRANDA



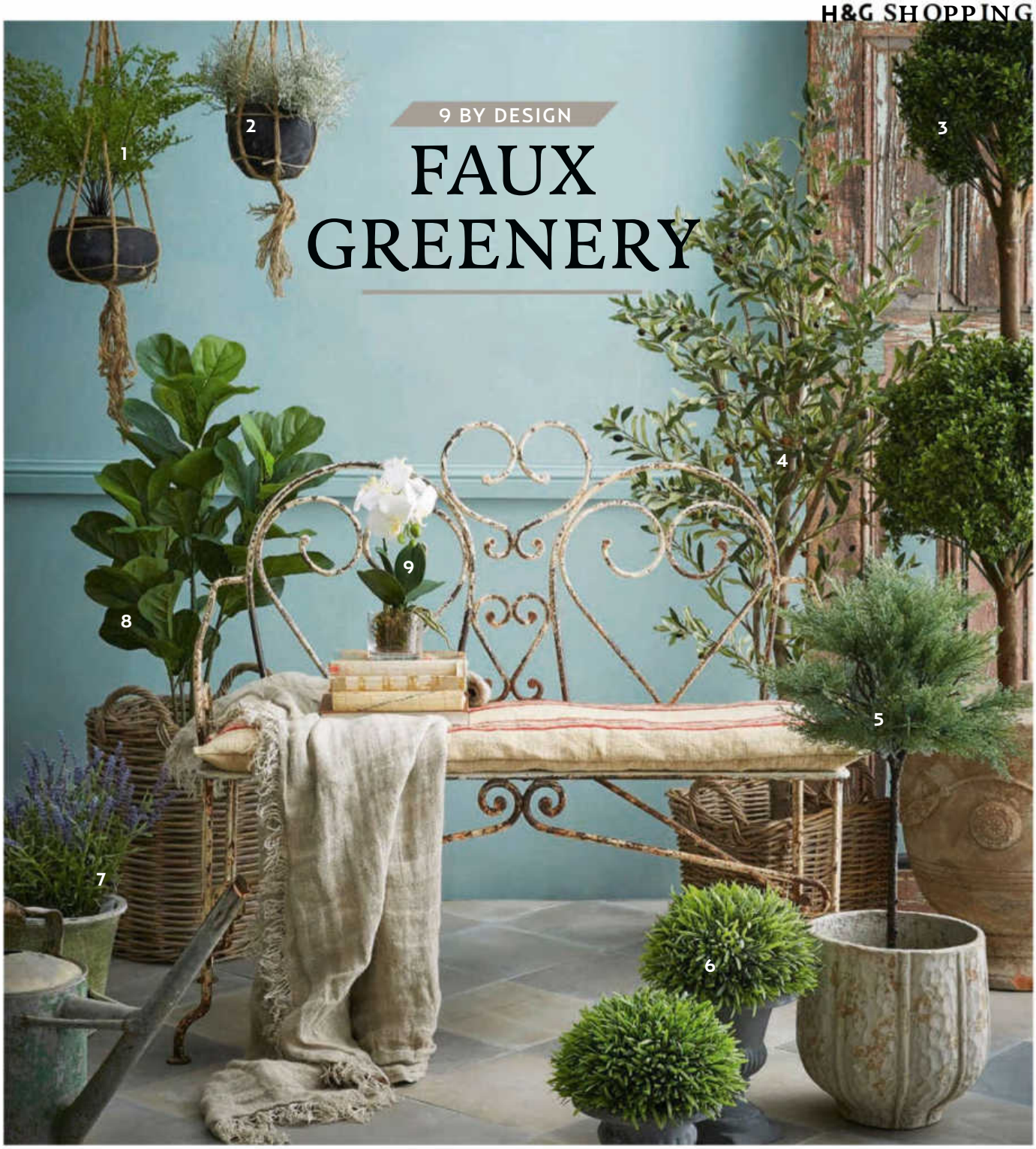
SRC ≈ ABBOTSFORD



PIER 2 ≈ WALSH BAY
(EVENTS ONLY)



ABBOTSFORD ≈ CRONULLA ≈ LAVENDER BAY



9 BY DESIGN

FAUX GREENERY

1 / Polyester **maidenhair fern,** $43, Domayne; www.domayneonline.com.au. **2 /** Floral Interiors Santolina plastic **bush,** $15/stem, Papaya; www.papaya.com.au. **3 /** Polyester and plastic **box topiary,** $325, Florabelle; www.florabelle.com.au. **4 /** PVC **olive tree** with silk foliage, $335, Koch & Co; www.koch.com.au. **5 /** Fejka polyethylene **cedar,** $30, Ikea; ikea.com.au. **6 /** Aspire plastic **rosemary** in urns, from $40, Pillow Talk; www.pillowtalk.com.au. **7 /** Plastic **lavender** in pot, $130, Rogue; www.roguehome.com.au. **8 /** Plastic and polyester **fiddle-leaf fig,** $215, Voyager Interiors; www.voyagerinteriors.com.au. **9 /** Plastic ***Phalaenopsis*** in vase, $28, Freedom; www.freedom.com.au. Atticus stone and rope **hanging planters** (1,2), from $50/each, Papaya. Terracotta **pot** (3), $99, Bunnings; www.bunnings.com.au. Hampton cane **baskets** (4, 8), from $62/each, La Maison; www.lamaison.net.au. Serax ceramic **pot** (5), $141, Beautiful Spaces Inside and Out; beautiful-spaces.com.au. Antique iron **bench,** $2850, and metal **watering can,** $65, Elements I Love; elements.net.au. Voyager linen **throw,** $165, Few and Far; www.fewandfar.com.au. Wall painted Interno Lime Wash in Liberty Green, $46/L, Porter's Paints; www.porterspaints.com. Dust porcelain **tiles,** $74/m², Di Lorenzo Tiles; www.dilorenzo.com.au. **H&G**

Styling by Kayla Gex. Stylist's assistant Sarah Maloney. Photograph by Will Horner.

9 BY DESIGN

WATER JUGS



1 / White Basics porcelain **jug,** $20, Maxwell & Williams; www.maxwellandwilliams.com.au. **2 /** Large Imprint ceramic **jug** in Indigo, $55, Madras Link; www.madraslinkonline.com.au. **3 /** Nel Lusso Gelato Series acrylic **jug,** $25, Zimba; www.zimba.com.au. **4 /** Milkmaid glass **jug,** $20, Freedom; www.freedom.com.au. **5 /** GreenGate Liva stoneware **jug** in Warm Grey, $58, Down That Little Lane; www.downthatlittlelane.com.au. **6 /** Colour Dip stoneware **pitcher,** $30, Davis & Waddell; www.davisandwaddell.com.au. **7 /** Stelton Freja stainless-steel **jug** with bast (plant fibre) trim, $245, Top3 by Design; www.top3.com.au. **8 /** European Collection glass, silver and brass **water jug,** $69, Art At Home; www.artathome.com.au. **9 /** Large Rock Resin resin **jug** in Light Horn, $255, Dinosaur Designs; www.dinosaurdesigns.com.au. **H&G**

Produced by Ashley Pratt.


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Early Settler The Flinders bar table with Paxton copper stools is a beautiful choice for both small and large outdoor-entertaining areas. **www.earlysettler.com.au**



My Dog The new My Dog® Fillets in Gravy range are carefully prepared using tender meat slices cooked in a delicious gravy. Your dog will love My Dog® Fillets in Gravy.



Sara Lee is incredibly easy to justify with new crunchy cheesecakes, gooey lava puddings and creamy dessert ice-creams. **www.facebook.com/saraleeaustralia**



Sharp The Sharp 581L refrigerator features black or silver glass doors and superior technology that keeps food fresh for longer, while reducing odours.



Smeg's new SmartSense Plus induction cooktops feature Surface Share 'bridging' zones and Active Surface controls that illuminate when in operation.



Warwick Elliot is Warwick Fabrics' latest range of elegant wide-width linen-blend sheers, designed to diffuse light beautifully. **www.warwick.com.au**



Winning Appliances The KWC Zoe showcases Swiss excellence in aesthetics, precision engineering and product innovation. **www.winningappliances.com.au**

BUYER'S GUIDE

BEDS

Put style and comfort at the top of your wish list and the rest is easy, writes **Sarah Pickette.**

A bed is a big-ticket purchase. And when you consider that Australians buy a new bed every 10 years or so, the value of choosing wisely quickly becomes apparent. There are a few boxes a bed needs to tick: top of that list is comfort, but it should also be constructed to last, suit your personal style and complement your home. In keeping with furniture trends elsewhere in the home, there has been a shift towards bed frames in raw timbers and with a Scandinavian-inspired aesthetic, says Les Sevel, national merchandise manager of retailer Bedshed. "We've also noticed that beds with upholstered headboards are rising in popularity. I put this down to the influence of renovation programs on television, which seem to result in homeowners buying a little more boldly," he says.

There's no question that upholstery is huge news in beds. Padded headboards – ▶

Sabrina Woodturned American oak queen-size bed, from $4700, Zuster; (03) 9427 7188 or zuster.com.au.

LAY IT OUT

Kerry Mulry, bedding, bedroom accessories and furniture buyer for Myer, shares her tips on how to select the best mattress for your bed:

- Work out how much you are willing to spend. A top-quality mattress might be expensive but it's a worthwhile investment.
- Look into mattresses that incorporate technology such as gel-infused viscose foam, which draws heat away from the body while you sleep.
- The 'right' mattress essentially comes down to personal preference. If you are overweight or have back issues, steer towards the firmer options.
- Adjustable mattresses, where the head and feet sections can be lowered or raised, are a good option for people with respiratory, postural or circulatory conditions.

particularly those that curve gently around the bed's sides to provide a cocooning feel – boost the comfort factor of a bed significantly. Favoured upholstery fabrics include those made from natural fibres and textured weaves, in muted tones such as soft greys.

"As someone who loves textiles, I am happy to see that upholstered headboards are popular again," says Melbourne interior designer Camilla Molders. "They're a great way to add colour and texture to a room." She suggests choosing a headboard that has a classic shape and neutral colour, which won't date or fall out of your favour. "Then you can simply change the look of your room by bringing in new quilt covers and cushions."

A timber bed will always be a timeless choice, says Wilhelmina McCarroll, design director at Zuster. "With a piece of furniture as large as a bedhead you can see the grain of the timber, which adds warmth to a bedroom, plus it's hardwearing and easy to maintain."

Timber, upholstered, or otherwise, many of today's bed-frame designs are low in profile and organic in shape, or perch on slim feet. "They have their roots in the bed styles of the 1960s and '70s but feature the latest technology and innovations," says Dana Skornicki, product manager for Natuzzi.

One innovation buyers can't get enough of is incorporated storage. "Homeowners definitely have storage top of mind," says Sevel. "Manufacturers have been addressing this by offering beds with drawers built into the base and shelving or cabinetry, including jewellery compartments and pull-out trays, in the headboard."

THE RIGHT MOVES

Another recent development in bed technology is adjustable bases, which allow you to lift and lower the individual head and foot positions to increase your comfort, assist your breathing and relieve pressure on your lower back. Some models offer a massage function and most are controlled via a wireless remote.

Queen-size beds have long ruled the roost in Australia, but the king is gaining market share, says Kerry Mulry, bedding, bedroom accessories and furniture buyer for Myer. "King beds are becoming more popular but be aware they can dominate the space in a negative way if your room isn't large enough."

So before you start looking around furniture showrooms, do your homework. Measure the maximum amount of space you'd like your bed to occupy, taking into account other pieces of furniture in the bedroom and the rule of thumb that you need to allow a one-metre clearance area around three sides of the bed. And remember that the length of your bed should ideally extend about 15cm further than the outstretched length of the tallest person who'll be sleeping in the bed.

Scale and proportion are important to consider, too, says Molders. "A headboard that is too tall in a room can look very odd and make the bed appear imposing rather than relaxing. I generally like to stick to a maximum headboard height of 1400-1500mm."

Sleep smart

The latest 'sleep diagnostic' technology is set to be unveiled in Australia when AH Beard releases its new mattress range in April. "The mattresses measure the duration of a person's sleep, their respiration and heart rate," says Allyn Beard, director. "It then uses algorithms to measure what stages of sleep the occupant is in and for how long and feeds this information back through an app." This complements wearable technology such as Fitbits and Apple watches, he says. "Many of us think that we don't sleep well and stress about it, when in reality we may be getting sufficient sleep. When you can measure it, you can manage it."



UPHOLSTERED

OPPLAND QUEEN BED FRAME, $808

Offering the best of both worlds, the budget-friendly Oppland bed has a stained-ash veneer base and an upholstered bedhead.
Ikea; (02) 8020 6641 or www.ikea.com.au.



NOOK QUEEN BED FRAME IN AQUA, $2499

The upholstered head of the Nook bed curves gently down into a slim, padded platform. It comes in 10 colours and several sizes.
Blu Dot; (02) 9313 5400 or www.bludot.com.au.



MOD QUEEN BED FRAME, $999

Upholstered in an on-trend grey fabric, this bed's slim silhouette and angled wood legs add up to grace at a great price.
West Elm; 1800 239 516 or www.westelm.com.au.



BASKET QUEEN BED FRAME, FROM $6680

This one comes in fabric, leather or eco-leather with removable upholstery covers. There's also a model with incorporated storage.
Fanuli; (02) 9908 2660 or www.fanuli.com.au.



DANE QUEEN BED FRAME, $1999

This Australian-made bed has a tall upholstered head and light timber feet. Also available in double and king sizes.
Domayne; www.domayneonline.com.au.



LIGNE ROSET RUCHÉ QUEEN BED FRAME, FROM $9425

Exquisitely quilted and stitched fabric elevates this beautifully designed bed into the ultimate investment piece.
Domo; (03) 9277 8888 or www.domo.com.au.



CHESTERFIELD QUEEN BED FRAME, $2174

With its headboard detailed with deep button tufts, this bed is a classic beauty. Upholstered in Oatmeal linen; also available in king.
Pottery Barn; 1800 232 914 or www.potterybarn.com.au.



MOLTENI&C RIBBON QUEEN BED FRAME, FROM $11,590

A new design, this bed features either fabric or leather upholstery edged with a ribbon trim that spans the headboard and base.
Hub Furniture Lighting Living; www.hubfurniture.com.au.

Mattresses and accessories not included.



STORAGE

JAMESON QUEEN BED IN PENDLE OATMEAL, $1299
Refined luxury is the order of the day with this subtly studded bed frame that has two bed-end drawers for blanket storage.
Freedom; 1300 135 588 or www.freedom.com.au.



TIMBER

CELESTE QUEEN BED FRAME, FROM $1299
There's a '60s vibe to this bed, which is constructed from acacia. It comes in queen and king sizes and matching furniture is available.
Bedshed; www.bedshed.com.au.



CLOVELLY QUEEN BED FRAME, $1799
The clean lines of the Clovelly bed conceal two bed-end drawers. It's made from solid mountain ash and is available in queen and king.
Snooze; (03) 9830 4166 or www.snooze.com.au.



SPATI QUEEN BED FRAME, $1495
An elegant form delivered in American oak, this bed comes in standard and extra-long sizes, plus a selection of finishes.
Weylandts; 1300 880 149 or www.weylandts.com.au.



ONDA QUEEN BED FRAME, FROM $5510
This Italian-designed bed features masses of storage. The down-stuffed headboard comes in leather or fabric.
Natuzzi Italia; www.natuzzi.com.au.



ASTA QUEEN BED FRAME, FROM $2199
This Australian-made bed combines the natural appeal of timber with the softness of upholstery. Matching furniture is available.
Forty Winks; www.fortywinks.com.au.



SERENADE STORAGE BED FRAME, POA
The timber-veneer base of this bed encloses a spacious storage compartment. The upholstered bedhead comes in fabric or leather.
King Living; 1300 546 438 or www.kingliving.com.au.



SIMPLE FOUR-POSTER BED FRAME, FROM $4950
A beautiful investment, this solid-timber bed is available in a range of timber, paint and powder-coated finishes.
Mark Tuckey; (02) 9997 4222 or marktuckey.com.au. **H&G**

Mattresses and accessories not included.



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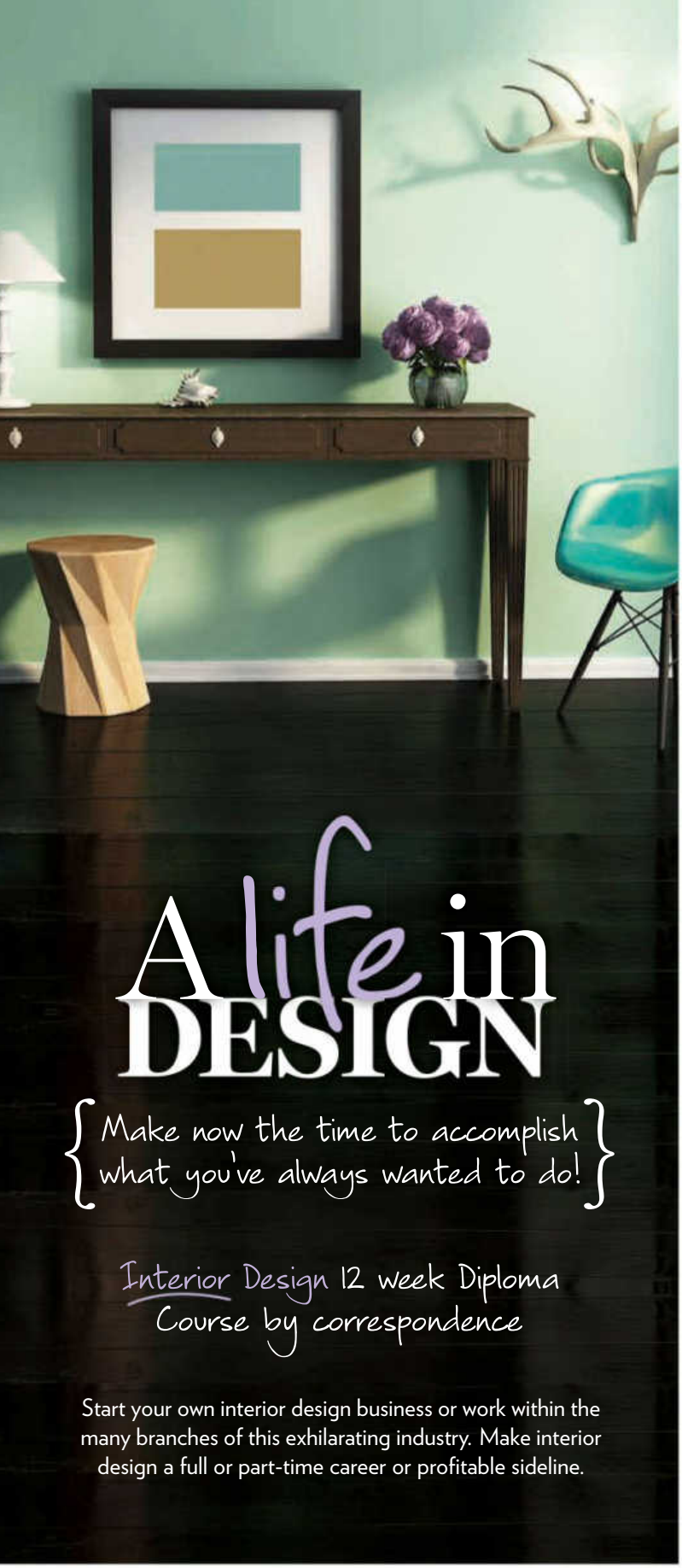


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On our cover

A fab extension has connected this 1880s Sydney home to its big backyard, bringing rewards aplenty. To see more, turn to page 78. Photographed by Chris Warnes.



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IF ALL OUR TALK OF ENTERTAINING HAS MADE YOU THIRSTY, TRY THESE SIMPLE COCKTAIL RECIPES, PAGE 70.

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Shop the page Like something you've seen on Things That Make Us Smile? We'll help you get your hands on the goods, page 194.

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MAREE HOMER



Regular H&G contributor @mareehomer_photography shares the images that define her craft and lifestyle.

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Proofing test prints for an upcoming exhibition. @dwellexhibition #dwellexhibition #lab #sheffergallery #pixelperfect #australianart



A snippet from my house. On my shelf is a collection of Royal Bavarian ceramic vases, vintage cameras and my favourite books. @parisphotofair @jones&co @magnumphotos #shelfie

May your Christmas be merry and bright! #merrychristmas #happyholidays





Behind the scenes in the studio. @b2studios #editorial #minimal



Packing my camera gear for today's shoot. @canonaustralia @canonusa @apple.stores



Doing post-production from home means I get to spend time with my best friend, my silky terrier-Maltese, Chip.



Collating images for my website, www.mareehomer.com. **#interiors #interiorsphotography**

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AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN



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1 / Smalltown braided-polyester **plant pods** in Cobalt Blue and White, $295/each, Tait; (02) 9310 1333 or www.madebytait.com.au. **2 /** Talulah Ocean Light Capri UV-coated polyester **beach umbrella,** $170, Zanui; 1300 668 317 or www.zanui.com.au. **3 /** Clover Abstract porcelain **platter** in Blue/Blush, $40, South Village Trading; www.southvillagetrading.com.au. **4 /** Copper and brass **spoon** and **knife**, $10/each, Raine & Humble; (03) 9375 7184 or www.raineandhumble.com.au. **5 /** Fresh acrylic **tumbler** in Blue, $8, Domayne; www.domayneonline.com.au. **6 /** Roda Spool powder-coated stainless steel and polyester **two-seater outdoor sofa** in Milk/Sand, $9500, Domo; (03) 9277 8888 or domo.com.au. **7 /** Milk & Sugar Otis stoneware **pot** in Navy Sticks, $50, Hunting for George; www.huntingforgeorge.com. **8 /** Crescent cotton **cushion** (50x50cm) in Dark Blue/Blush, $55, Milk & Sugar; (03) 9338 1955 or www.milkandsugar.com.au. **9 /** Globe **garland,** $30/1.7m, Domayne. **H&G**

Produced by Christina Gee.

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Floor: French Oak in Driftwood
Cabinetry: American Oak in Danish White
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